

A photograph of the entrance to Willen Church. A large, dark red banner is stretched across the top of the entrance, featuring white text that commemorates Robert Hooke. The banner reads: "Celebrating Robert Hooke", "Who built this church", and "Born 18th July 1635". The church itself is a brick building with a central arched doorway and a small square tower above it. The scene is framed by green leaves at the top and sides, and a gravel path leads to the church entrance. A wooden bench is visible on the left side of the path.

Celebrating Robert Hooke
Who built this church
Born 18th July 1635

Willen Church Newsheet
The Eighth Sunday after Trinity



Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership
St Mary Magdalene Willen
Sunday 26th July 2026
The Eighth Sunday after Trinity



Today: The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am Holy Communion led by Rev Hannah Akibo-Betts

Thank you, Hannah, for leading us this morning

10.00am Family Breakfast Club at Cross & Stable with Service at **11.00am**

Service details for SEP churches are on SEP website and in monthly newsletter

This week

St Mary Magdalene church is open for private prayer or quiet reflection on Sundays and Mondays from 9.30am until evening.

Bible study meeting on **Monday 27th July** from **7.00 to 9.00pm** at 91A Aldrich Drive, Willen, using a book called *Women of the Old Testament*. All welcome.

5WAYS CAFÉ at St. Andrew's Church, Great Linford 11.00am to 1.00pm on July 28 Join to enjoy good company, refreshments, a selection of board games.

ChatterboxMK at Cross & Stable each **Wednesday** 10.30am to 12.30pm. All Welcome - tea - coffee - cakes - meet and chat. Come and meet others.

Please come along and join the **volunteer gardeners** on Saturday mornings 10am - 12pm in the Garden of Remembrance. No special skills needed.

Next week: August 2nd The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

9.30am All Age Morning Worship led by Margaret Moakes LLM

Pavilion Funday Please note the Pavilion Funday planned for the 8th August has been **cancelled** and there is no need to prepare cakes etc. for the event.

PRAYER OF THE DAY Loving and Living God, you let your sun rise on both the bad and the good. Change our hearts and minds, so that we may learn to accept others with love, as you have accepted us. We pray that your Holy Spirit will grant our communities a sense of unity, mutual respect and love as you have for us. *Amen*

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Churchwardens: Janet Hawkins, Sharron Marland <i>Email: warden@willenchurch.org</i>	<i>Church website: www.willenchurch.org</i>
Enquiries: To contact about weddings funerals and baptisms or other enquiries please call 01908 382458; or E. sburyepadm@gmail.com or contact a churchwarden.	
Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership: www.stantonbury.net and Facebook Please email short succinct notices to notices@willenchurch.org by 5pm on the preceding Thursday	

The Collect of The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven
and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride,
when we are needy save us from despair,
that we may trust in you alone;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



PSALM 105: 1 – 11 (© The Archbishops' Council 2005)

- 1 O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name; ♦
make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises, ♦
and tell of all his marvellous works.
- 3 Rejoice in the praise of his holy name; ♦
let the hearts of them rejoice who seek the Lord.
- 4 Seek the Lord and his strength; ♦
seek his face continually.
- 5 Remember the marvels he has done, ♦
his wonders and the judgements of his mouth,
- 6 O seed of Abraham his servant, ♦
O children of Jacob his chosen.
- 7 He is the Lord our God; ♦
his judgements are in all the earth.
- 8 He has always been mindful of his covenant, ♦
the promise that he made for a thousand generations:
- 9 The covenant he made with Abraham, ♦
the oath that he swore to Isaac,
- 10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob, ♦
an everlasting covenant for Israel,
- 11 Saying, 'To you will I give the land of Canaan ♦
to be the portion of your inheritance.'

OLD TESTAMENT READING:

Genesis 29: 15 – 28 (NRSVA)

A reading from the Book of Genesis

¹⁵ Then Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?' ¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.' ¹⁹ Laban said, 'It is better

that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.’²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, ‘Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.’²² So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast.²³ But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her.²⁴ (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.)²⁵ When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, ‘What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?’²⁶ Laban said, ‘This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn.’²⁷ Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.’²⁸ Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 8: 26 – 39 (NRSVA)

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?³³ Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?³⁶ As it is written, ‘For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.’

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 13: 31- 33, 44 - 52 (NRSVA)

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

³¹ He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

³³ He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

⁴⁴ 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

⁴⁵ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

⁴⁷ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

⁵¹ 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵² And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ



FOR YOUR PRAYERS Please pray for

- Churches in Milton Keynes are working together to share the Christian message and advertise events. Please pray that our churches would get better at sharing good news.
- all those who work in Milton Keynes to support those struggling with poverty and food needs, including Westcroft Food Pantry and Food Banks.
- greater understanding between people of different social, racial, political or faith group

Sick: Mark & Janice Earls, Fr Edmund Wheat, Alison Read, Cindy Williams, Lynda Phillips

World Prayers: For those caught up in extreme heat overseas and for us all to do what we can to care for our planet. For the people living through war, conflict, or the aftermath of natural disaster. 28 July [World Hepatitis Day](#) 30 July [International Day of Friendship](#); [World Day against Trafficking in Persons](#) Aug 1–7 [World Breastfeeding Week](#)

HYMNS - Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New

- 70** Be thou my vision
- 217** God is love: let heaven adore him
- 375** King of glory, King of peace
- 636** The Church's one foundation

