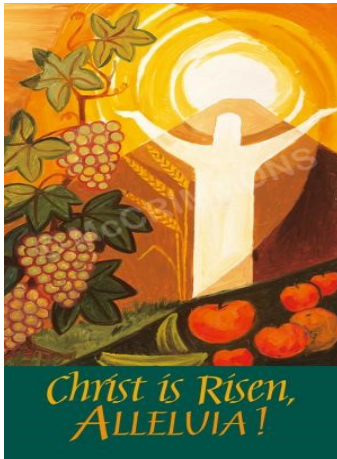


# Thoughts and Prayers for the Week

## Sunday 15th May 2022



### 5th Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,  
your wounds declare your  
love for the world  
and the wonder of your risen life:  
give us compassion and courage  
to risk ourselves for those we serve,  
to the glory of God the Father  
Amen.



### Readings for the Week:

Acts 11: 1-18

Psalms 148

Revelation 21: 1-6

John 13: 31-35

### Thought for the Week

In his Easter sermon Archbishop Welby criticised the government's plan to send some asylum seekers on to Rwanda. In so doing he incurred the displeasure of the prime minister and some commentators and thereby stirred up the age-old debate over the church's role in society.

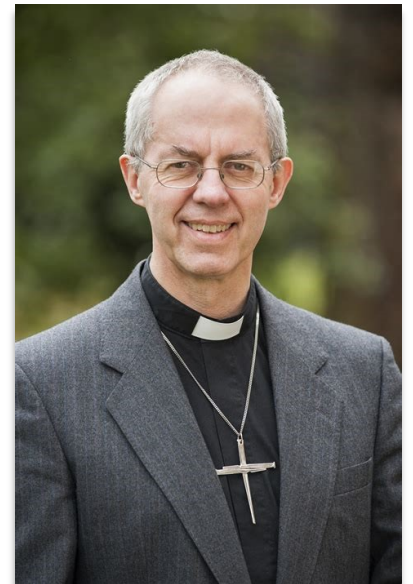
This is not the place to argue the rights and wrongs of the government's intention. Many will view it as a practical and innovative response to the seemingly endless flow of illegal immigration to our shores. There has to be a realistic, workable and humanitarian response to the amoral profiteering gangs.

But might there be an alternative to simply passing on the responsibility? We have an established Christian church. Have we lost our collective moral conscience for those less fortunate? The combined contribution of Trevor Huddleston and Desmond Tutu towards the dismantling of apartheid stands as a beacon of how church can influence state.

Christ himself scrupulously avoided direct criticism of Roman rule. His response when shown the Roman coin left no doubt. "Do unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God what is God's" (Mt 22.21) cleverly trumped the attempt to trick him. The nearest he came to referring to social injustice was in the Beatitudes (Mt 5.1-12, Lk 6.20-26). His choice of the words "the poor in spirit, the hungry, the oppressed" would suggest that he had a neglected section of society in mind.

Is it right, even realistic, that the appointed head of the nation's established church should be denied a voice on decisions of state where there are moral considerations? The government's responsibility is to provide for our quality of life through the services which we help fund. Fine.

But when, how and through whom does it provide an ethical base for our choices if not through the words and example of Jesus Christ? Agreeing or disagreeing with the archbishop's point of view is not the issue. Surely his very position requires him to act as the nation's moral compass. Does he (or



perhaps, one day, she?) not have the right, even duty, to steer us towards Christ's path?

~Michael Pennington ~

### Prayer for the Week

Lord God, all wise, all merciful,  
hear us as we pray for those who bear the responsibility  
of leadership among the nations of the world.  
Give them in their deliberations wisdom  
to know your will,  
regard for your laws and respect for human rights;  
that they may seek to lead all people in the paths of  
freedom and peace, for the glory of your name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

~Frank Colquhoun ~

**Let us continue to support and strengthen each other**

- ◇ Daily, by saying The Lord’s Prayer together, morning and evening
- ◇ Lighting a candle at home 10.00am on Sunday if we are unable to come to church

**Our Services:**

<b>15th May 2022 - Rogation Tide</b>	<b>Michael’s Vintage Bus Tour</b> (*please see below)	
<b>22nd May 2022 6th Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>9:30am   Celtic Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Hempnall Church</b>
	<b>11:00am   Eucharist</b>	<b>Topcroft Church</b>
	<b>6.00pm   Celebrating Creation Evening Service</b>	<b>Via Zoom</b>
<b>Thursday 26th May 2022 Ascension Day</b>	<b>6:00pm   Group Eucharist</b>	<b>Hempnall Church</b>

**This week we pray for:**

- ◇ In the morning: the day and its tasks; the world and its needs; the Church and her life
- ◇ The people of God, that they may proclaim the risen Lord
- ◇ God’s creation, that the peoples of the earth may meet their responsibility to care
- ◇ Those in despair and darkness, that they may find the hope and light of Christ
- ◇ Those in fear of death, that they may find faith through the resurrection
- ◇ Prisoners and captives
- ◇ In the evening: peace; individuals and their needs

**Food Bank**

Items for our Food Bank are still needed; we are very grateful to all who continue to contribute during this difficult time.

Our next collections will be on:

**Sunday 5th June 2022. Any items can be left at Hempnall Church Office Mon-Thu, 9am-12:30pm.**

**Please phone before arrival – 498157**

- URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS**
- FRUIT JUICE **\*URGENT\***
- TINNED TOMATOES
- LONG LIFE MICROWAVEABLE SPONGE PUDDINGS
- SMALL JAR COFFEE
- PASTA SAUCE
- COOKING SAUCE TO GO WITH RICE

**WE REMEMBER:**

Martin, Molly, Dennis, Ian, Vievenne

**Hempnall:** Lesley and family,  
Phillip, Sophie

**Bedingham/Woodton:**  
Sheila, Hilary, Peter, Liz, Anne, Chris,

**Topcroft:** Gerald, Jane

**LONG TERM CARE:**

**Bedingham /Woodton:**  
Dennis, Shirley, Jacob

**Fritton/Morningthorpe:** Beryl



**RECENTLY DIED:**

Lawrence Taylor

**Please ring us if you need:**

**Liz Billett –Team Vicar 07891 854219**

**Group Office: Mon-Thurs 9am-12.30pm**

**01508 498157**

**Email: [hempnallgroup.office@btinternet.com](mailto:hempnallgroup.office@btinternet.com)**

**\*Michaels vintage Bus Sunday 15th May**

Starting at.....

- 10.00am Start at Hempnall Mill Centre for Coffee
- 10.30am Board bus and proceed to Woodton
- 10.45 am Arrive at Woodton Village Hall
- 11.30 am Continue to Topcroft via Bedingham church
- 11.45am Arrive at Topcroft church

**Bring your own picnic lunch**

- 1.00pm Move on to Hardwick
- 1.30pm Proceed to Fritton Common via Shelton and Morningthorpe Churches
- 1.50pm Arrive at Common
- 2.20pm Leave for Hempnall Mill Centre for tea.