

# Thoughts and Prayers for the Week

## Sunday 31st July 2022



### 7th Sunday after Trinity

Generous God,

you give us gifts and make them grow:  
though our faith is small as a mustard seed,  
make it grow to your glory  
and the flourishing of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



### Readings for the Week:

Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 12-14

& Ecclesiastes 2: 18-23

Psalm 49: 1-9, [10-12]

Colossians 3: 1-11

Luke 12: 13-21

### Reflection on the Celtic Evening Prayer Service

I think that this is one of the loveliest Evening prayer services I have ever read, truly beautiful and inspiring. I chose the reading from Isaiah (Ch4. V5-6), last Sunday, because it reminded me of the incredible pictures and news we had recently of the James Webb space telescope. We remind ourselves about the Creator of true heavens who stretches them out. The amazing pictures of deep space – the size of a grain of sand held at arms length. This image is as it appears 4 – 6 billion years ago.

Our creator God, stunning us with beauty, things we just cannot grasp in our own time scales.

Then I think of Psalm 8. “What is man – that you are mindful of him.”

Then I go back to Isaiah 42. V 6 – special to me because I was given a card with this bible reference on when training to be a Christian Listeners Tutor – “I the Lord have called you in righteousness - I will take your hand..... And We pray that the Holy Spirit will stretch our hearts, and enlarge our minds.”

In the beauty of this Celtic evening prayer - which encompasses everything I think, our hopes, our desires, our hurts and our pain, and our longing to be before God - we can reflect on our own journey, particularly in these new times. We are saddened and sometimes bewildered when we consider our future as a church community. But here, I feel that God is saying to each one of us “I the Lord have called you” - you, me, all of us - “I will take hold of your hand – I will keep you”.

We can look at the depths of space and be overwhelmed at its magnitude. We can look at our planet, changing not for the good of us and our brothers and sisters around the world. It is wounded because we haven't cared enough for it.



We can look at war, famine, flood, fire, greed, selfishness, hatred between nations and can equally be overwhelmed by what is happening in our own country as well.

Back to part of the canticle “Have courage and wait for the Lord. We shall see His goodness.”

We turn to our beloved Creator God again – He gave us life. In love, He made us a little lower than the angels. He became one of us and in his Son He saved us. He has given us all things, and most of all Eternal life. How many billions of years will that be I wonder.

If we let Him - He will take hold of our hands. He will lead us into our future, as individuals, as our Church community, as part of the world community in which we live. He will keep us, and we can hold on to that in these uncertain times.

His peace is ours, and we can rest! Amen

~Jackie Mahony~

Please see <https://hempnallgroup.co.uk/> if you would like to see a copy of the Celtic Evening Prayer Service

**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>Sunday 31st July 2022</b> <b>7th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>10:00am   Group Service   Morning Prayer in the Iona Tradition</b>	<b>Shelton Church</b>
<b>Sunday 7th Aug 2022</b> <b>8th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>10:00am   Group Eucharist (Service conducted by the Rev Canon Susanna Gunner, Diocesan Spirituality and Discipleship Advisor)</b>	<b>Hempnall Church</b>
	<b>4:00pm   Family Praise</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 Queen, members of parliament and the armed forces
- ◇ Peace and justice in the world
- ◇ Those who work for reconciliation
- ◇ All whose lives are devastated by war and civil strife
- ◇ Prisoners, refugees and homeless people
- ◇ 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 7th August 2022. Any items can be left at Hempnall Church Office Mon-Thu, 9am-12:30pm. Please phone before arrival - 498157**

**URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS**

SUGAR, UHT FRUIT JUICE, INSTANT MASH

NO PEANUT BUTTER PLEASE

HYGIENE—MALE & FEMALE DEODORANT

ANIMALS—DOG, RABBIT & GUINEA PIG FOOD (NOT CAT)

**WE REMEMBER:**

Martin, Molly, Dennis, Ian

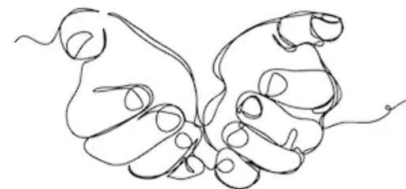
**Hempnall:** Lesley and family,  
Phillip, Sophie

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

**Topcroft:** Gerald

**LONG TERM CARE:**

**Bedingham /Woodton:**  
Dennis, Shirley, Jacob, Myrtle, Rudolph  
**Fritton/Morningthorpe:** Beryl



**RECENTLY DIED:**

Nigel Moore

**Please ring us if you need:**

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

**01508 498157**

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

