

Thoughts and Prayers for the Week

Sunday 4th September 2022



12th Sunday after Trinity

God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Readings for the Week:

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20

Psalm 1

Philemon: 1-21

Luke 14: 25-33

Reflecting on summer...

What images best describe our experience of summer this year? It's not easy to be upbeat. Under the intense sun, our land has baked, the normal rainbow of colours bleached, the usual lushness of vegetation parched.

One of the most vivid Biblical descriptions of scorched earth is found in the book of the Old Testament prophet, Joel:



Untitled (Irregular Desert) by Vija Celmins (1973)

*The seed shrivels under the clods,
the storehouses are desolate;
the granaries are ruined
because the grain has failed.
How the beasts groan!
The herds of cattle are perplexed
because there is no pasture for them*

*Unto you, O Lord, I cry
for flame has burned
all the trees of the field.
Even the wild beasts cry to you;
because the water brooks are dried
up,
and fire has devoured
the pastures of the wilderness.*



The Forest Fire by Piero Di Cosmio (c.1505)

Desolate language and desolate images...

Yet while Joel's book starts with that description of devastation, it doesn't end there. On the contrary, after the great lament, the second half of the book promises Israel's restoration...

Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.

Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow [...]

Then you will know that I, the LORD your God, dwell in Zion, my holy hill [...]

In that day the mountains will drip new wine, and the hills will flow with milk; all the ravines of Judah will run with water.

And the basis of that change? This transition from despair, from land consumed to land revived, is bridged in Joel's book by an insistent call to repent and turn to the Lord:

Rend your hearts and not your garments

And turn unto the Lord your God:

for he is gracious and merciful,

Slow to anger and of great kindness

And repenteth him of the evil.

Millenia later, these familiar words – forming one of the penitential sentences in the Book of Common Prayer – continue to be a powerful spur to reflection, action and hope.

~Liam Pilgrim~

This is an abstract from the reflection at the Group's Zoom evening service on 28 August 2022.
Images are from Visual Commentary on Scripture: < <https://thevcs.org/search?query=joel> > (accessed 26.8.22).

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:

Sunday 4th Sep 2022 12th Sunday after Trinity	10:00am Group Eucharist (Service conducted by the Right Revd. Bishop David Gillett, retired Bishop of Bolton, Honorary Assistant Bishop in our Norwich Diocese)	Topcroft Church
	4:00pm Family Praise	Hempnall Church
Sunday 11th Sep 2022 13th Sunday after Trinity	11:00am Eucharist (Service conducted by the Revd Lynn Chapman, The Rural Dean, Priest in Charge of the Brooke Benefice)	Topcroft Church

This week we pray for:

- ◇ In the morning: the day and its tasks; the world and its needs; the Church and her life
- ◇ The social services
- ◇ All who work in the criminal justice system
- ◇ Victims and perpetrators of crime
- ◇ The work of aid agencies throughout the world
- ◇ Those living in poverty or under oppression
- ◇ 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 4th September 2022. Any items can be left at Hempnall Church Office Mon-Thu, 9am-12:30pm. Please phone before arrival - 01508 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:

Robert Crawford

Please ring us if you need:

Group Office: Mon-Thurs 9am-12.30pm

01508 498157

Email: hempnallgroup.office@btinternet.com



Plant and Produce Sale in Aid of Garden Twinning

At Hempnall Church on Saturday 10th September 11.00am-3.00pm

There will also be a Garden Raffle,

Any donations of plants and produce will be most welcome

Further details from Jill Turner 01508 499344