

# Thoughts and Prayers for the Week

## Sunday 11th September 2022



### 13th Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,  
you search us and know us:  
may we rely on you in strength  
and rest on you in weakness,  
now and in all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen



### Readings for the Week:

Exodus 32: 7-14

Psalm 51: 1-11

1 Timothy 1: 12-17

Luke 15: 1-10

### Reflection.....

All our readings today are about the things that go wrong in our lives and how patiently God forgives.

We know that God has promised forgiveness but what is the price of God's forgiveness? As the Lord's Prayer tells us we must forgive others. "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us". But how do we forgive when we have been wronged, rejected, and cheated? When our hearts have been broken?

I think all we can do is obey. If we say, "I forgive", the rest is with God and he will bring forgiveness into our hearts.

But why should we forgive? Remember God loves us and knows what is best for us. Forgiveness is not for God. It is partly for the person who has wronged us, but they may not know or care. Forgiveness is for us to wash away the hurt and to bring some peace and healing back into our hearts.

When Jesus hung on the cross, he was in physical agony. A whipped back, thorns in his head and nails through his hands. The weight of all our sins was upon him. But, as he looked down on those jeering faces, maybe that hurt more. These were his children, he loved them and they threw that love back in his face. "Crucify" they shouted! His reply? "Father forgive them they know not what they do". That is why I believe he can help us come to terms with forgiving. Because he understands the hurt that hardens our hearts, he felt it on the cross.



In Luke Chapter 15, the Pharisees and scribes are murmuring, "This man receives sinners and eats with them". So Jesus tells the well-known story of the shepherd. He compares us to sheep, very useful animals but known to be easily led astray. The shepherd gets ready to close up for the night carefully counting them into the fold. But one has gone missing. But ninety nine sheep are safe; isn't that enough? The shepherd doesn't think so and sets off to search for the missing sheep. He searches for that one missing sheep because each one was precious to him just as we are all precious to God.

When the shepherd finds the sheep, he doesn't shout at it, he brings it home on his shoulders rejoicing.

What right did the Scribes and Pharisees have to look down on other people, people that were special to God as we are special? Loved, saved and forgiven. Amen

*~June Cutting~*

# Thoughts and Prayers for the Week

Sunday 18th September 2022



## 14th Sunday after Trinity

Creator God,  
you made the goodness of the land,  
the riches of the sea  
and the rhythm of the seasons;  
as we thank you for the harvest,  
may we cherish and respect  
this planet and its peoples,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Readings for:  
14th Sunday after Trinity

Amos 8: 4-7

Psalm 113

1 Timothy 2: 1-7

Luke 16: 1-13

Harvest Thanksgiving

Deuteronomy 26: 1-11

Psalm 100

Philippians 4: 4-9

John 6: 25-35



## Thought for the week.....

There are many ways to read the bible. Cover to cover, book by book, chapter by chapter or just sitting with a particular passage that seems to resonate and connect with your experience.

One way of reading, is to do so slowly, thoughtfully, reading the passage again and seeing what phrase or verse stands out, then, staying with that verse or phrase, ask God what he may be saying and then just wait for his response.

This way of praying the bible has a long tradition first established by Benedict of Nursia in the 6th century. It is called Lectio Divina:

Try reading these verses this way:

### Listening

During the first reading, gently look and listen for a word or phrase that attracts or draws your attention.

### Pondering

During the second reading, ask yourself how or why does this word or phrase has touched your heart, why it is speaking to you at this moment in your life.

### Praying

As you read the passage for the last time, ask God what he may be asking of you. What is it you may need to consider as a result of what God is saying to you in the word or phrase you noticed?

### Waiting

In the quiet that follows the reading allow God to speak to you and plant this word in your heart.

## Psalm 100

A psalm. For giving grateful praise.

- 1 *Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.*
- 2 *Worship the Lord with gladness;  
come before him with joyful songs.*
- 3 *Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, the sheep of his  
pasture.*
- 4 *Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and praise his name.*
- 5 *For the Lord is good and his love endures  
for ever; his faithfulness continues  
through generations.*



**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 11th Sep 2022</b> <b>13th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>11:00am   Eucharist</b> <b>(Service conducted by the Revd Lynn Chapman, The Rural Dean, Priest in Charge of the Brooke Benefice)</b>	<b>Topcroft Church</b>
<b>Sunday 18th Sep 2022</b> <b>14th Sunday after Trinity</b>	<b>10.00am Harvest Eucharist</b> <b>(Service to be conducted by the Revd Cate Turner, Assistant Curate, Bramerton Group Ministry, Thurton Benefice)</b>	<b>Bedingham Church</b>
<b>Sunday 25th Sep 2022</b> <b>15th Sunday after Trinity</b> <b>Harvest</b>	<b>9:30am   Harvest Thanksgiving</b>	<b>Woodton Church</b>
	<b>9:30 am   Harvest Thanksgiving</b>	<b>Shelton Church</b>
	<b>9:30 am   Harvest Thanksgiving</b>	<b>Hempnall Church</b>
	<b>11:00 am Harvest Thanksgiving</b>	<b>Morningthorpe Church</b>
	<b>6:00pm   Evening Service in the Methodist Tradition</b>	<b>Via Zoom</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

**WE REMEMBER:**

Martin, Molly, Dennis, Ian

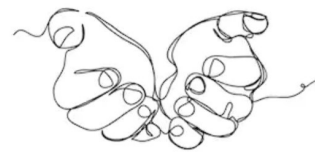
**Hempnall:** Lesley and family,  
Phillip, Sophie

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

**Topcroft:** Gerald

**LONG TERM CARE:**

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



**Plant and Produce Sale in Aid of Garden Twinning**

**At Hempnall Church on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 11.00am-3.00pm**

*Further details from Jill Turner 01508 499344*



**Sunday 11th September 2022**

**Deanery Walk—4pm**

*Gather in the car park of Seething Village Hall*

**Deanery Tea— 5pm**

*Served in Seething Village Hall*

**Deanery Service—6pm**

*Worship together in St Margaret’s Church, Seething*

**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)**

**Please note the Office will be closed from**

**Mon 12th—Thu 15th September**

**For Annual Holiday**