

Thoughts and Prayers for the Week

Sunday 9th October 2022



17th Sunday after Trinity

Gracious God,
you call us to fullness of life:
deliver us from unbelief
and banish our anxieties
with the liberating love of
Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

Readings this week:

2 Kings 5: 1-3, 7-15c

Psalm 111

2 Timothy 2: 8-15

Luke 17: 11-19



Love, acceptance and trust – the lesson of St Francis and the wolf...

(Abstract of reflection at Celebrating with All the Animals at Bedingham Church on 2 October 2022)

October 4th is the feast day St Francis of Assisi (who lived c. 1181-1226). Aptly, it's designated as World Animal Day, an international focus for animal welfare. And it's definitely a good time to celebrate here in the Hempnall Group with all our animals.

A famous story about St Francis concerns the wolf of Gubbio. Francis had heard how a large, savage wolf was terrorising the residents of this old, fortified town, making them afraid to venture beyond the city walls. Determined to investigate, he visited, talked with the inhabitants and – to their alarm – decided to confront this terrible beast.

Fearless because of his affinity with all of God's creation, Francis wandered into the countryside. Soon he heard the great howl of the wolf, which approached him with teeth bared and hackles up, ready to attack and devour. Francis made the sign of the cross and said, 'Brother wolf – come here to me, you are bad and have been harming God's creation and people. I want you to make peace and not harm anyone ever again.' The wolf, dumbfounded by this extraordinary man, bent his head and wagged his tail in submission. Then, to confirm the promise, he offered Francis his paw as a sign of understanding and commitment.

So, with the wolf by his side, Francis re-entered the city, to general amazement. He told the people that while the wolf was quite bad, they themselves were not much better; he instructed them to make reparation and a pact with the wolf, to care for him and feed him every day. They promised so to do, and again the wolf gave Francis his paw as affirmation of his good intentions for the future.

After that the wolf wandered freely around Gubbio, being fed properly and even entering people's homes. The citizens began to love and respect him and he was content, his hunger assuaged. Perhaps not only hunger for food, but his hunger to be accepted and loved. After two years the wolf died, to great



Image from website of First Congregational Church, Winchester, Maine, USA : <https://fcc-winchester.com/latest-news/the-story-of-the-wolf-of-gubbio-and-st-francis-of-assisi/>

distress. He was buried in a chapel dedicated to St Francis. In 1873 workers there discovered the skull of the wolf under a stone.

We may think that this well-documented story is exaggerated – yet it has underlying truths. Francis loved all creation intensely. He was attuned to the wolf's vulnerability – fear, hunger and maybe loneliness (being without a pack). He also had great intuition with people – including the inhabitants of Gubbio, who, with their own indiscretions, needed to re-set their lives – and was able to preach about God and his love for all His creation, as we are all bound together.

Perhaps in many ways we all need taming, we all need to be loved and accepted, regardless of what has happened to us. And we all need to learn how to trust. Let us revel in all the beauty around us, all that we have, all that we love, and give thanks for those preceding us who have led us in various ways to know, to accept and to trust in the love of our merciful and great God. Amen.

~Jackie Mahony ~

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 9th Oct 2022 17th Sun after Trinity	10:00am Group Eucharist	Shelton Church
Sunday 16th Oct 2022 18th Sun after Trinity	10:00am Morning Service in the Iona tradition	Morningthorpe 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 media and the arts
- ◇ Farming and fishing
- ◇ Commerce and industry
- ◇ Those whose work is unfulfilling, Stressful or fraught with danger
- ◇ All who are unemployed
- ◇ 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 6th November 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, Ian

Hempnall: Lesley and family,
Phillip, Sophie

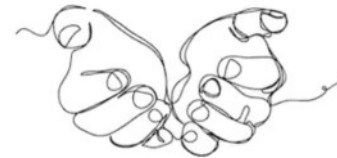
Bedingham/Woodton:
Sheila, Hilary, Peter, Liz, Anne, Chris, Barrie

Topcroft: Gerald

LONG TERM CARE:

Bedingham /Woodton:
Dennis, Shirley, Jacob, Myrtle, Rudolph

Fritton/Morningthorpe: Beryl



RECENTLY DIED:

Barbara Peachey, Dennis O’Leary

Please ring us if you need:

Group Office: Mon-Thurs 9am-12.30pm

01508 498157

Email: hempnallgroup.office@btinternet.com

