

Thoughts and Prayers for the Week

Sunday 11th December 2022



3rd Sunday of Advent

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare
the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



Readings this week:

Isaiah 35: 1-10

Psalms 146: 4-10

James 5: 7-10

Matthew 11: 2-11

Christmas...

Do you like Christmas? Sadly a man said to me the other day, "I shall be glad when it's all over". Others say it is too commercial and some say it is nice but it's for the children really. I agree it is for the children especially the **grown-up children**. It has a lovely story and don't we all like stories. This story is about giving and receiving.

Do you like getting Christmas Presents? I hope that you get everything that you want. I love presents, especially if they are carefully wrapped in shiny paper; and looking lovely. But when we have opened them and looked at the presents, are they what we really wanted? Are they what we hoped for? Are we going to be able to say a really big thank you! Or is it going to be "oh thanks" and we know we will never really use the present.

Look again at God's present - a baby - his son. I don't think all the people who saw him when he was born really thought he was what they wanted. He was not what they had hoped God would send. They wanted a leader; a champion who would drive out the Romans.

Like all exciting presents, God's gift comes all wrapped up, packed around with stories of angels and shepherds and wise men. Beautiful stories that add to the joy of the present. But if we are realistic, the stable would have been smelly, the shepherds grubby and Mary & Joseph tired and crumpled from too much travelling. Most of the people in Bethlehem would have been grumpy. They were there to register to pay taxes and nobody likes paying taxes.



The wrapping around God's present wasn't as shiny as we like to imagine it. But the wrappings are not important ...it is the present that we really want to see and hold and keep. This present that God sent brought joy to some and disappointment to others. Why did God send a baby? God looked down at his tired, crumpled and grubby people living in a violent world and he was moved by love and pity. The last thing the world needed was more violence. What the world needed, and still does today, is love. Someone to show them how to live and how to love! So, if your presents leave you disappointed, remember behind all the decorations and the food and the good intentions, God's present is there for us. A present that won't wear out, won't have to be changed. A present that is for us all - God's love, God with us. Best ever!

Happy Christmas.

~June Cutting~

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 11th Dec 2022 3rd Sunday of Advent	9:30am Gift Service Kate Daynes (Methodist Local Preacher)	Hempnall Church
	11:00am Morning Service in the Celtic Tradition	Morningthorpe Church
	6:00pm Advent Evening Service	Via Zoom
Sunday 18th Dec 2022 4th Sunday of Advent	9:30am Group Eucharist Revd Cate Turner (Assistant Curate, Bramerton Group Ministry)	Woodton Church
	6:30pm Carols by Candlelight	Fritton Church
	6:30pm Carol Service	Hardwick 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 Church, that she may be ready for the coming of Christ
- ◇ The leaders of the Church
- ◇ The nations, that they may be subject to the rule of God
- ◇ Those who are working for justice in the world
- ◇ The broken, that they may find God’s healing
- ◇ 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 8TH JANUARY 2023 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

WE’VE GOT PLENTY OF

PASTA

CEREAL

SOUP

WE REMEMBER:

Martin, Molly, Ian

Hempnall: Lesley and family,

Phillip, Sophie

Bedingham/Woodton:

Sheila, Hilary, Peter, Liz, Anne, Chris, Barrie

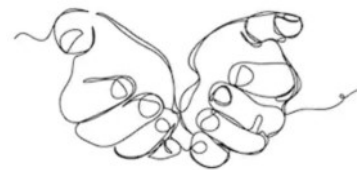
Topcroft: Gerald

LONG TERM CARE:

Bedingham /Woodton:

Dennis, Shirley, Jacob, Myrtle, Rudolph

Fritton/Morningthorpe: Beryl



RECENTLY DIED:

Geoff Moulton, Jim Pulford

Please ring us if you need:

Group Office: Mon-Thurs 9am-12.30pm

01508 498157

Email: hempnallgroup.office@btinternet.com

