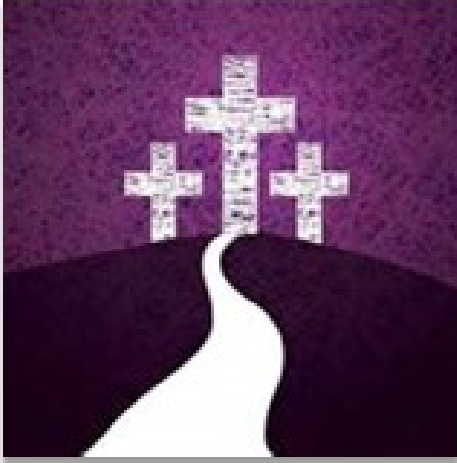


Thoughts and Prayers for the Week

Sunday 26th March 2023



5th Sunday of Lent

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the
mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our
Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



Readings this week:

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8: 6-11

John 11: 1-45

Lynn's licensing

This edition of 'Thoughts and Prayers' is being published on the day (23 March) when the Rev'd Lynn Chapman (Priest-in-Charge of the Brooke Benefice) is being formally licensed as Priest-in-Charge of the existing Hempnall Group of Parishes, pending the implementation of the plans previously announced to create a new, integrated benefice.

As we welcome Lynn and pray for her ministry here, it's appropriate to share some material from the licensing service.

Here are the two **readings** chosen by the Bishop of Thetford:

Paul's Letter to the Colossians, chapter 3, verses 12-17:

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Gospel according to Luke, chapter 12, verses 22-32:

He said to his disciples, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as



that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.'

And here is one of our **prayers** included in the service:

*Gracious God,
May we treasure the past with thanksgiving,
May we embrace the future with hope,
May we journey ahead with confidence
In your love
and in your power
now and always,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

Let's indeed 'treasure the past with thanksgiving' and 'embrace the future with hope' as we go forward, under Lynn's leadership, with confidence in God's love.

~Compiled by Liam Pilgrim~

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:

Thursday 23rd Mar 2023	7:00pm Special Service (see below for details) Bishop of Thetford	Hempnall Church
Sunday 26th Mar 2023 5th Sunday of Lent Passiontide begins	10:00am Group Eucharist Revd Richard Capper, Retired clergy	Shelton Church
	6:00pm An Evening Service for Lent <i>Join Zoom Meeting:</i> https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84989034174? pwd=eWxPY0JrYW1Seml6Ym5JOFIkdDFzQT09 Meeting ID: 849 8903 4174 Passcode: 489915	Via Zoom
Sunday 2nd Apr 2023 Palm Sunday	09:40am Procession from Mill Centre to Hempnall Church (Optional)	Mill Centre to Hempnall Church
	10:00am Group Palm Sunday Service (non-Eucharistic service with extended reading of the Passion)	Hempnall Church
	4:00pm Family Praise	Hempnall Church
	6:00pm Eucharist Service	Topcroft Church

SPECIAL SERVICE

The Bishop of Thetford will conduct the licensing of the Revd Lynn Chapman as Priest-in-Charge of the Hempnall Group of Parishes on:

THURSDAY 23RD MARCH AT 7:00PM IN HEMPSTALL CHURCH

This is in addition to Lynn's current position as Priest-in-Charge of the Brooke Benefice and is a logical step while the formal Scheme is prepared for our new integrated benefice; at which point Lynn will automatically become its Incumbent.

The simple service of Holy Communion will be followed by light refreshments.

ALL ARE WELCOME !

This week we pray for:

- ◇ In the morning: the day and its tasks; the world and its needs; the Church and her life
- ◇ The persecuted Church
- ◇ The oppressed peoples of the world
- ◇ All who are lonely
- ◇ All who are near to death
- ◇ All who are facing loss
- ◇ 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 2ND APRIL 2023 Any items can be left at Hempnall Church Office Mon-Thu, 9am-12:30pm. Please phone before arrival - 01508 498157

Please ring us if you need:

**Group Office: Mon-Thu 9am-12.30pm
01508 498157**

Email: hempnallgroup.office@btinternet.com

WE REMEMBER:

Martin, Molly, Ian

Hempnall: Lesley and family,
Phillip, Sophie, Ross, Claire, David

Bedingham/Woodton:
Sheila, Hilary, Peter, Liz, Anne, Chris, Barrie,
Carolyn, Kath, Bruce, Pat, Anthea, Harry, Sally

Topcroft: Gerald

LONG TERM CARE:

Bedingham /Woodton:
Dennis, Shirley, Jacob
Fritton/Morningthorpe: Beryl



RECENTLY DIED: Michael Soanes, Diana
Sowerby, Basil Walpole