

***The Brooke Benefice
and
The Hempnall Group of Parishes
Thoughts and Prayers
November 2026***



I recently came across a quotation from the Dalai Lama, the leader of Tibetan Buddhism, and while not heading down the path of conversion to that philosophy certainly felt that it struck a chord with me. He says, *“Tragedy should be utilized as a source of strength. No matter what sort of difficulties, how painful experience is, if we lose our hope, that's our real disaster.”*

That ‘eastern’ wisdom seems particularly important at the moment. Every night on our screens we see pictures and reports of conflict, war and aggression with innocent families torn apart and burying their dead. There are natural disasters occurring it seems with ever increasing frequency, some of them caused by human fuelled climate change. Societies are becoming fragmented and polarised as easy solutions to economic or demographic problems are sought. Individual tragedies confront and disquiet us as tales of addiction, crime, violence and abuse make headline news. It would be so easy to let all these things cast a gloomy pall over our mood as the days shorten this November.

Yet, there are ways forward for all of these things, there is light at the end of the tunnels if we only look for it, strive for it. We mustn’t let ourselves be overwhelmed by what is happening in the world. The two watchwords we can hold in our hearts when confronting tragedies are love and what follows from it, hope. We can avoid the disaster of just accepting things as they are. If we do as Jesus commanded and love our neighbours as ourselves we can find ways, no matter how small, to influence leaders into compromise, to help lessen human damage to the natural world and to make people kinder to each other. We will find our mood lifting with hope.

It would be remiss of me to only have quoted here from a Buddhist sage and not from our own Scripture so this is what the prophet Jeremiah tells us, *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”*. Let’s all continue this month in hope.

Tim Francis

Sunday Readings

The passages below are those specified in the Common Worship Lectionary for each Sunday. Different selected readings may be heard in our churches on Remembrance and Safeguarding Sunday respectively.

1st November – All Saints’ Day (4 th before Advent)	<i>Psalm 34:1-10</i> <i>Revelation 7:9-end</i> <i>Matthew 5:1-12</i>
8th November – Remembrance Sunday (3 rd before Advent)	<i>Psalm 70</i> <i>Wisdom 6:12-16</i> <i>Matthew 25:1-13</i>
15th November – Safeguarding Sunday (2 nd before Advent)	<i>Psalm 90:1-8</i> <i>Zephaniah 1:7,12-end</i> <i>Matthew 25:14-30</i>
22nd November – Christ the King (Sunday next before Advent)	<i>Psalm 95:1-7</i> <i>Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24</i> <i>Matthew 25:31-end</i>
29th November – 1st Sunday of Advent	<i>Psalm 80:1-8</i> <i>Isaiah 64:1-9</i> <i>1 Corinthians 1:3-9</i> <i>Mark 13:24-end</i>

Prayers – This month

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>We pray especially for...</i>
Sunday	1st	...the bereaved as they remember and give thanks for their lost loved ones at today’s Commemoration Services.
Monday	2 nd	...anyone subjected to modern slavery and for those seeking to abolish it.
Tuesday	3 rd	...people to be called to supportive roles both within the church and wider community in any way they are able.
Wednesday	4 th	...our fellow Christians in those places where their faith brings them persecution.
Thursday	5 th	...the safety of all attending bonfire events today.
Friday	6 th	...all aid workers bringing relief to others at home and abroad.
Saturday	7 th	...those processing, distributing and retailing the necessities of our lives.
Sunday	8th	...an end to all conflict as we gather today in remembrance of those who lost their lives or were afflicted by war and violence
Monday	9 th	...those attending groups and courses to increase their understanding of Scripture and the Christian mission.

Tuesday	10 th	...those who voluntarily work to maintain our church buildings and outside spaces.
Wednesday	11 th	...the staff in our local schools nurturing new generations.
Thursday	12 th	...our churchwardens, designated persons and all PCC members furthering the life of our churches.
Friday	13 th	...all children in need as the charity named after them raises funds today.
Saturday	14 th	...the next generation of church workers to be given confidence to serve Christ in our congregations, communities, villages and throughout the world.
Sunday	15th	...all to embrace safeguarding of the vulnerable as their Christian duty owed to victims everywhere.
Monday	16 th	...all who suffer from discrimination of any kind on this International Day for Tolerance.
Tuesday	17 th	...young people, that they may overcome barriers to work and education and so reach their full potential.
Wednesday	18 th	...all in long-term care or are housebound together with those who look after their needs. Give them strength and hope.
Thursday	19 th	...members of the emergency services who respond when we find ourselves in trouble.
Friday	20 th	...our bishops, clergy and all lay people who minister in Christ's name.
Saturday	21 st	...anyone experiencing financial hardship at this time that they may seek and find advice and relief from their problems.
Sunday	22nd	...our congregations gathering today at Mundham and Bedingham celebrating Christ the King.
Monday	23 rd	...members of both Houses of Parliament that they may govern the nation with fairness and compassion.
Tuesday	24 th	...the homeless and all with accommodation needs.
Wednesday	25 th	...those subjected to domestic abuse and violence that they may find shelter and a better life.
Thursday	26 th	...the organists and musicians who enhance our acts of worship with their skill and talent.
Friday	27 th	... all those in hospital and the staff caring for them.
Saturday	28 th	...the meeting of Diocesan Synod today that it be productive and guided by the Holy Spirit.
Sunday	29th	...a joyous Advent season of reflection and anticipation as we await once again the celebration of Christ's birth on earth.
Monday	30 th	...peace, love and goodwill throughout the World.

Throughout, we pray for those who especially need your help at this time.

Remembering:

Martin, Mike, Ian, Michael, Ann, Frank, Rosemary
Bedingham/Woodton: Sheila, Hilary, Anne, Bruce, Richard,
Susan, Marco, David
Fritton/Morningthorpe: Jason, Carol
Hempnall: Lesley and family, Sophie
Shelton/Hardwick: Maureen
Topcroft: Candy, Penny, Cathy, Jane

Long-Term Care...

Bedingham/Woodton: Dennis, Shirley, Jacob, Sally
Hempnall: Colin, Denise
Mundham/Seething: Margaret, Nancy



Recently Died...

Mundham: John Butler
Kirstead: Dermot Murphy, Brenda Kemp
Brooke: Rosalind Teague
(Formerly of the Hempnall Group): Heather Dobson