

Day	Date	We pray especially for...
Thursday	28th	...those we know who suffer from mental health problems and all that is being done for them.
Friday	29th	...families who are struggling with the cost of living, especially single parents with children.
Saturday	30th	...for us all to be more prayerful as we look to the New Year.
Sunday	31st	...those attending Holy Communion at Topcroft.

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

Martin, Molly, Ian; **Bedingham/Woodton:** Sheila, Hilary, Peter, Liz, Anne, Barrie, Carolyn, Bruce, Pat, Anthea, Harry, Sally, Kath, Richard, Susan;

Brooke: Liz and Bob; **Hempnall:** Lesley and family, Phillip, Sophie, Ross, Claire, David; **Topcroft:** Gerald;

and those in long term care:

Bedingham/Woodton: Dennis, Shirley, Jacob; **Brooke:** Yvonne;

Fritton/Morningthorpe: Beryl;

Mundham with Seething: Margaret, Nancy.



Recently Died:

Lorna Clare, Tony Hall, Gladys Howlett, Anthony Read

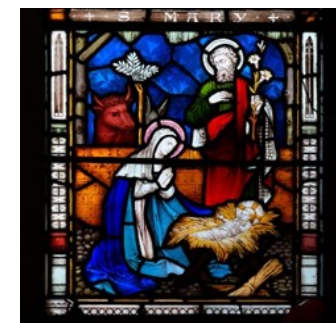
(Compiled by and for the Langhale Benefice)



The Langhale Benefice Thoughts and Prayers December 2023

Christmas presents.....

I am sure, like many of you, I am looking forward to Christmas. It can be a busy time, organising family visits, thinking about food, what presents to buy and which services to attend. I have to admit I do get excited opening presents. At home they have to be hidden as if they are left out, I feel them and shake them to try and guess what's inside. This of course spoils the excitement when the wrapping paper is torn off, the box opened and there it is. A surprise is much better. Then you have in front of you a present, thought about, wrapped with love and sometimes given with thanks. And of course it is not just the receiver who enjoys the present but also the giver. The whole experience of finding something suitable, choosing the paper and label and then the act of giving. As my mother used to say "It is much better to give than to receive". But I still enjoy receiving presents



and the excitement of unwrapping to see what is inside. At Christmas time we celebrate the present that God sent to us in the human form of Jesus. No fancy wrapping paper, just a manger in a stable, a baby lying on a bed of hay wrapped in swaddling clothes. I am sure Mary and Joseph looked down on this 'present' with awe, love and probably trepidation. (I remember when our first daughter was born (on 19th December), we were over joyed, and then had to get on with looking after this new person.) At Christmas time we give thanks to God for the present of Jesus. That small baby that grew up to change the world, to give us teaching for life, to show us how to love our neighbours, how to forgive, and to bring us closer to God in our lives. We give thanks to God for giving us the present of Jesus, and for Mary and Joseph for unwrapping it for us all to enjoy.

~John Ash~

Sunday Readings	
3rd December 2023 Advent One	<i>Isaiah 65. 1-9 Mark 13. 24-end</i>
10th December 2023 Advent two	<i>Isaiah 40. 1-11 Mark 1. 1-8</i>
17th December 2023 Advent three	<i>Isaiah 61. 1-4, 8-end John 1. 6-8, 19-28</i>
24th December 2023 Advent four Christmas Eve	<i>Isaiah 52. 7-10 John 1. 1-14</i>
31st December 2023 Christmas one	<i>Isaiah 61.10 - 62.3 Luke 2. 15-21</i>

Prayers – This month

Day	Date	We pray especially for...
Friday	1st	...for all leaders attending COP 28 in the UAE and their deliberations and decisions to make the world safer in the face of the changing climate.
Saturday	2nd	...those who look forward to weekends for a time of rest and reflection.
Sunday	3rd	...for those attending the whole Benefice service at Hardwick, family praise at Hempnall and the Advent service at Brooke.
Monday	4th	... all those who will be starting new jobs, new projects, etc. at the start of a new month and week.
Tuesday	5th	...all those who give to foodbanks to help those struggling with feeding themselves and their families.
Wednesday	6th	...for peace in Palestine and Israel.
Thursday	7th	...friends and family in care homes and all those who work giving them support.
Friday	8th	...the businesses in our villages providing vital services.
Saturday	9th	...all those who play in teams providing friendship and enjoying activities together especially those encouraging more girls to play sport.

Day	Date	We pray especially for...
Sunday	10th	...for congregations worshipping at Thwaite, Hempnall and Woodton today.
Monday	11th	... our Home Communion Assistants and all whom they visit; those in our communities who are especially vulnerable; all who provide pastoral support in our parishes.
Tuesday	12th	...all involved in the administration of our church activities, including Frances as our administrator, PCC Secretaries and PCC Treasurers.
Wednesday	13th	...the Ecochurch community and those working to make our churches more environmentally friendly.
Thursday	14th	...peace in the Ukraine, those who have found sanctuary in other countries, especially those known to us.
Friday	15th	... all who give generously to the work of the church, financially or in other ways.
Saturday	16th	...those who provide a service delivering cards, letters and parcels especially for Christmas.
Sunday	17th	...those leading and those attending carol services in the run up to Christmas.
Monday	18th	... those recently bereaved and those supporting the mourners and taking funeral services
Tuesday	19th	...the school children in the Benefice as they break up for Christmas. For the teachers, assistants, cooks and all those who help in the education of the children.
Wednesday	20th	...our Diocesan Bishops Graham, Jane and Ian.
Thursday	21st	...those in positions of responsibility in our churches, churchwardens, treasurers and PCC members.
Friday	22nd	...organisations providing food and shelter to the homeless.
Saturday	23rd	... our organists, singers and musicians; our bell ringers; flower arrangers; 'meeters and greeters'; and refreshment servers
Sunday	24th	...all those who are alone this Christmas time.
Monday	25th	...families and friends sharing time together today. The Ministry team for all their work in preparing and taking services this Christmastime.
Tuesday	26th	...those feeling tired and weary after the Christmas celebrations.
Wednesday	27th	...all who volunteer in offering communal and social activities in our villages and all who participate in them