

Day	Date	We pray especially for...
Monday	19th	...our lay Ministry Team (John, Liam and Tim) and all who help prepare our services.
Tuesday	20th	...all involved in the administration of our church activities, including Frances as our administrator and our PCC Secretaries and Treasurers.
Wednesday	21st	...all who give generously to the work of the church, financially or in other ways.
Thursday	22nd	...all offering support to older people.
Friday	23rd	...those across the world who are marginalised or oppressed.
Saturday	24th	... all those organising and participating in the Lent Lunch today at Topcroft Pavilion; all who run businesses/offer services in our communities.
Sunday	25th	...our worship this morning at Brooke and Topcroft; our monthly evening worship on Zoom.
Monday	26th	...our school children, returning after their half-term break, and all who teach and support their education; families throughout our villages.
Tuesday	27th	...all involved in our Mission Teams (Finance, Growing and Giving, Pastoral) and the work they do.
Wednesday	28th	...those who need the services of local foodbanks and those who make donations to them.
Thursday	29th	...all, everywhere, who need us to pray for them for whatever reason.

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

Martin, Molly, Ian, Gordon, Emma, Helen;

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, Ann;

and those in long term care:

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

Fritton/Morningthorpe: Beryl;

Mundham with Seething: Margaret, Nancy.

Recently Died:

Ronald Ferré, Barbara Race

(Compiled by and for the Langhale Benefice)



The Langhale Benefice Thoughts and Prayers February 2024

On this day...

As we step into February and move toward Lent it is interesting to note that Ash Wednesday and the commemoration of St Valentine will occur on the same day this year, something that has not happened since 2018 and, prior to that, 1945. This is an opportunity to reflect on the significance of each of these days and how we can tie them into our lives with devotion, sacrifice and love.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, which since the 4th century is the period of 40 days (plus Sundays) leading to Easter Eve. This imitates the period Jesus spent in the wilderness where he went soon after his baptism to fast and pray before beginning his work for God. We know that while there he was tempted by Satan but was able to resist with the aid of the Spirit. Lent prompts us to remember that. It is a time of reflection and of self-discipline for Christians. On Ash Wednesday many Christian churches hold services during which Christians are marked on their foreheads with a cross of ashes: it is an occasion to search ourselves and to ask God's forgiveness for those things that are not according to his will.



St Valentine was a 3rd century Roman saint. He was born in Italy 226 CE, martyred on February 14th 269 CE and then buried on the Via Flamina to the north of Rome. Not very much is known about Valentine but the most widely accepted version of his



martyrdom is that he ran into problems with Emperor Claudius II. Claudius had prohibited marriage in Rome, believing that Roman men were unwilling to join the army because of their strong attachments to their wives and families. It's said that Valentine, a Christian priest, defied the emperor by marrying couples in secret. He helped many of his fellow believers in escaping the harsh sentences they faced in Roman prisons where they were tortured and beaten. When Claudius found out he ordered Valentine to renounce his faith. Valentine refused, choosing to give up his life for his love of God.

Do Ash Wednesday and St Valentine's Day have anything in common? Valentine's Day is an opportunity to show love to others by giving a gift. St Valentine gave his life for the love of his Lord. Ash Wednesday, as the beginning of Lent, starts us on the journey towards Holy Week and Good Friday, the time when God sent his only Son to die on the cross. That was the greatest gift that has ever been given to this world.

This year, making the most of the unusual combination of dates, let's find time to think of both dimensions of this one day.

~Trixie Dye~

Drawing of St Valentine: Anonymous Artists | St. Valentine, published 5 December 1488 | The Illustrated Bartsch on JSTOR database: <<https://about.jstor.org/blog/valentines-day/>>

Sunday Readings	
4th February 2024 Candlemas	<i>Psalm 24:[1-6], 7-10</i> <i>Malachi 3:1-5</i> <i>Luke 2:22-40</i>
11th February 2024 Sunday before Lent	<i>Psalm 50:1-6</i> <i>2 Kings 2.1-12</i> <i>Mark 9:2-9</i>
18th February 2024 Lent One	<i>Psalm 25:1-9</i> <i>Genesis 9:8-17</i> <i>Mark 1:9-15</i>
25th February 2024 Lent Two	<i>Psalm 22:22-30</i> <i>Genesis 17:1-7,15-16</i> <i>Mark 8.31-38</i>

Prayers – This month

Day	Date	We pray especially for...
Thursday	1st	...the Co-ordinating Group of the Hempnall Group and the Brooke Benefice, meeting this evening, as we prepare to move into vacancy.
Friday	2nd	...the success of the Village Quiz Night at Friar's Farm Barn, Morningthorpe this evening in aid of Morningthorpe and Fritton Churches
Saturday	3rd	...our local communities and all who live and work in them.
Sunday	4th	...our worship together as we commemorate Candlemas at Bedingham and Brooke; those participating in the Family Praise 'All-Age' Community Service this afternoon at Hempnall Church with songs, stories and games.

Day	Date	We pray especially for...
Monday	5th	...the meeting of the Brooke Benefice PPC's this evening; all involved in church governance, serving on church Councils and acting as representatives in decision making and forward planning.
Tuesday	6th	...all the benefices and communities across the Depwade Deanery as the Deanery Synod meets this evening for a visit by Bishop Jane.
Wednesday	7th	...our Home Communion Assistants and all whom they visit; all in our communities who are especially vulnerable; all who provide pastoral support in our parishes, in many different ways.
Thursday	8th	...those this month who will be preparing for funerals; all those recently bereaved.
Friday	9th	...politicians and all involved in public administration in this country, at all levels, that they may exercise sound judgement.
Saturday	10th	...the experimental pop-up, drop-in Dog Café in Hardwick Church this morning; all running and attending community and social events in our villages.
Sunday	11th	...our worship together this morning at Woodton and Kirstead.
Monday	12th	...countries across the world holding democratic elections this month, that sound governance will prevail.
Tuesday	13th	...those we know who are experiencing physical or mental ill health and those who provide care and support.
Wednesday	14th	...our journey together through Lent, starting on this Ash Wednesday with services in Brooke and Hempnall; on Valentine's Day, those we love and hold dear.
Thursday	15th	...our church premises and all involved in looking after them; our Churchwardens and Designated Persons; our Fabric Officers and Building Administrators; our cleaners; those who tend our churchyards.
Friday	16th	...the children and young people in our local schools and all who teach and support them.
Saturday	17th	...all who volunteer in offering communal and social activities in our villages and all who participate in them.
Sunday	18th	...Lynn, with thanks for her ministry among us and good wishes for her future, as she presides at her final services today in the benefice (at Hempnall and Brooke) and hosts a farewell tea in Brooke Village Hall this afternoon; for our church communities as we enter vacancy.
Monday	19th	...our lay Ministry Team (John, Liam and Tim) and all who help prepare our services.