

| Day | Date | We pray especially for... |
|-----------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday | 24th | ...our local businesses, that they may thrive. |
| Saturday | 25th | ...as we head for the shops or enjoy a night out, those working in retail and hospitality. |
| Sunday | 26th | ...our services today at Brooke, Topcroft and on Zoom, that all who attend may be nourished and sustainedon the 10 th anniversary of the consecration of the first female bishop in the Church of England (Rt Revd Libby Lane as Bishop of Stockport – now Bishop of Derby), all who have pioneered the inclusion of women in positions of church leadership. |
| Monday | 27th | ...the homeless and all suffering from want, neglect or abuse in our society. |
| Tuesday | 28th | ...all who work in the criminal justice system in the UK, which faces many challenges. |
| Wednesday | 29th | ...those across the world who are marginalised or oppressed. |
| Thursday | 30th | ...our families, friends and all who are dear to us. |
| Friday | 31st | ...all who need us to pray with or for them, for whatever reason. |

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

remembering: Martin, Ian, Emma, Helen, Michael, Ann

Bedingham/Woodton: Sheila, Hilary, Peter, Liz, Anne, Barrie, Bruce, Harry, Sally, Kath, Richard, Susan, June

Fritton/Morningthorpe: Jason

Hempnall: Lesley and family, Phillip, Sophia, Claire, David

Topcroft: Gerald

Long Term Care...

Bedingham/Woodton: Dennis, Shirley, Jacob, Ruth

Brooke: Ron

Fritton/Morningthorpe: Beryl

Hempnall: Colin

Mundham/Seething: Margaret, Nancy

Recently Deceased...

Diana Alexander, Eric Newton, Celia Cameron, Philip Ashford

(Compiled by and for the Brooke Benefice and the Hempnall Group of Parishes)

Image Acknowledgement: 'Follow the Star' – Church of England website: Janus image -: Wikipedia



The Brooke Benefice and The Hempnall Group Thoughts and Prayers January 2025

A New Year beckons.....

Being from Tyneside, I have always regarded New Year (and specifically New Year's Eve) as special. As a child it was the only occasion when I was allowed to stay up late, with excitement increasing as midnight approached. Long before New Year's Day became a statutory bank holiday across the UK (in 1974), it was celebrated in the North-East of England, as in Scotland, as a major secular festivity, an occasion to make a transition and to look forward.

It came as quite a culture shock, when I moved to East Anglia, to find it described as 'Old Year's Night' which

seemed to alter the emphasis to a more sombre, backward-looking occasion, seemingly focussed on endings rather than beginnings.

Over time I've remained resolutely in the 'onward and upward' camp when it comes to New Year. And that is in tune, too, with the season in the Church Calendar. As we move through Epiphany and the Sundays following it, our Lectionary reminds us of early moments in the development and perception of Christ's earthly ministry, the beginning of events which will so change the world. It's a time of, and for, hope.

Here, then, are some thoughts to take with us as we embark on 2025:

Look back and remember He was with you.

Stand still and realise He is with you.

Walk forward and trust He will be with you always.

(Contributed by Penny Wall: source - Bible Reading Fellowship)

And this, from previous publications but worth repeating:

May God make our year a happy one!

Not by shielding us from sorrow and pain,

But by strengthening us to bear it if it comes;

Not by making our path easy,

But by making us sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from us,

But by taking fear from our heart;



Statue representing 'Two-faced Janus' in the Vatican Museums

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Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,
 But by keeping our face bright even in the shadows;
 Not by making our life always pleasant,
 But by showing us when people and their causes need us most,
 and by making us determined to be there to help.
 God, make our year a happy one...

(First published – author anonymous – over 50 years ago in the January 1973 issue of the inter-faith magazine 'Guideposts': this version is adapted from the original)

~Liam Pilgrim~

| Sunday Readings | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5th January – Epiphany (for 6th January) | <i>Psalm 72: 10-end</i> <i>Ephesians 3:1-12</i> <i>Matthew 2:1-12</i> |
| 12th January – Epiphany 1 (Baptism of Christ) | <i>Psalm 29</i> <i>Acts 8:14-17</i> <i>Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22</i> |
| 19th January – Epiphany 2 | <i>Psalm 36:5-20</i> <i>1 Corinthians 12:1-11</i> <i>John 2:1-11</i> |
| 26th January – Epiphany 3 | <i>Psalm 19</i> <i>1 Corinthians 12:12-31a</i> <i>Luke 4:14-21</i> |

| Day | Date | We pray especially for... |
|---------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday | 1st | ...God's guidance and presence, asking for strength and wisdom to face the challenges of the new year, to explore fresh opportunities and to be equipped for new tasks. |
| Thursday | 2nd | ...our local communities and all who live and work in them. |
| Friday | 3rd | ...our benefices as we prepare to advertise for new clergy appointments and for those who may be called to apply. |
| Saturday | 4th | ...politicians and all involved in public administration in this country, at all levels, that they may exercise sound judgement. |
| Sunday | 5th | ...all worshipping together in our Holy Communion services this morning at Brooke and Hempnall to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany; and with the Family Praise team at Hempnall this afternoon. |
| Monday | 6th | ...those who have a difficult relationship with alcohol, that in 'Dry January' they may experience a reset of body and mind. |

| Day | Date | We pray especially for... |
|---------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday | 7th | ...our children, young people, teachers and other staff in our local schools, as the new term starts today. |
| Wednesday | 8th | ...the ministry of the Revd Michael Windridge, recently licensed to the Hempnall Group (Associate Priest) and supporting as Rural Dean the benefices of Depwade Deanery. |
| Thursday | 9th | ...our church premises and all involved in looking after them; our Churchwardens and Designated Persons; our Fabric Officers and Building Administrators; our cleaners and those who tend our churchyards. |
| Friday | 10th | ...our environment, that we may take care of it. |
| Saturday | 11th | ...all who engage in sport locally and everyone who supports and encourages them. |
| Sunday | 12th | ... all participating in Morning Worship this morning at Brooke and Woodton. |
| Monday | 13th | ...those we know who are experiencing physical or mental ill health and those who provide care and support. |
| Tuesday | 14th | ...all involved in the governance and co-ordination of our church activities, including Frances as our administrator and our PCC Secretaries and Treasurers. |
| Wednesday | 15th | ...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 | 16th | ...all offering support to older people. |
| Friday | 17th | ...all who work in health and social care and all who need the services they provide. |
| Saturday | 18th | ...all organising and attending community and social events in our villages. |
| Sunday | 19th | ...our worship this morning at Brooke and Fritton, that it may be refresh and renew us. |
| Monday | 20th |in this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Christians of all denominations, that we may work together in providing a Christian voice in society. |
| Tuesday | 21st | ...those involved in agriculture and in all aspects of food production and distribution. |
| Wednesday | 22nd | ...those who need the services of local foodbanks and those who make donations to them. |
| Thursday | 23rd | ...our emergency services and the dedication of those who work in them. |