

| Day | Date | We pray especially for... |
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| Tuesday | 20th | ...those involved in agriculture and in all aspects of food production and distribution. |
| Wednesday | 21st | ...those who need the services of local foodbanks and those who make donations to them. |
| Thursday | 22nd | ...our emergency services and the dedication of those who work in them. |
| Friday | 23rd | ...our local businesses, that they may thrive. |
| Saturday | 24th | ...as we head for the shops or enjoy a night out, those working in retail and hospitality. |
| Sunday | 25th | ...our services today at Brooke, Topcroft and on Zoom, that all who attend may be nourished and sustained. |
| Monday | 26th | ...the homeless and all suffering from want, neglect or abuse in our society. |
| Tuesday | 27th | ...all who work in the criminal justice system in the UK, which faces many challenges. |
| Wednesday | 28th | ...politicians and all involved in public administration in this country, at all levels, that they may exercise sound judgement. |
| Thursday | 29th | ...those across the world who are marginalised or oppressed. |
| Friday | 30th | ...our families, friends and all who are dear to us. |
| Saturday | 31st | ...all who need us to pray with or for them, for whatever reason. |

Throughout, we pray for those in special need at this time, remembering:

Martin, Ian, Emma, Helen, Michael, Ann

Bedingham/Woodton: Sheila, Hilary, Anne, Bruce, Harry, Sally, Richard, Susan, Marco

Fritton/Morningthorpe: Jason

Hempnall: Lesley and family, Sophia

Topcroft: Candy, Gail

Long Term Care...

Bedingham/Woodton: Dennis, Shirley, Jacob

Fritton/Morningthorpe: Beryl

Hempnall: Colin

Mundham/Seething: Margaret, Nancy

Recently Deceased and Upcoming Funerals...

David Sandford, Mary Ellis

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



**The Brooke Benefice and
The Hempnall Group
Thoughts and Prayers
January 2026**

A great light ...

The Gospel readings for January, during the successive Sundays of Epiphany ('manifestation'), relate various ways in which Christ's glory became apparent and was recognised by others in his early life.

In our celebration of Epiphany itself at the start of the month we note the expectation and persistence of the Wise Men in following the star to Jesus and of their readiness to express wonder and to worship when they found him.



Moving on, we hear of John the Baptist's recognition of the significance of Jesus on the occasion of his (adult) baptism and how, shortly afterwards, the first disciples responded to Jesus's invitation to 'Come and see'.

That theme is further pursued in the Gospel reading at the end of the month from Matthew (Matt 4:12-23) about Jesus's early ministry, with the Gospel writer referencing Isaiah (Isa 9:1-4):

*'The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light';
those who lived in a land of great darkness –
on them light has shined.'*

During Epiphanytide, then, we're encouraged to think about how we've been brought to know Jesus, about how we recognise and acknowledge him. What does the 'great light' mean for us? How can we make others aware of it?

This point is addressed in a lovely poem – which Trixie Dye shared with us in a Zoom service some time ago – by the late Rev Kathy Galloway, a Church of Scotland minister and former Leader of the Iona Community (who, sadly, died this summer):

*The sky does it simply, naturally
day by day
the sun does it joyfully
like someone in love
like a runner on the starting-line
the sky, the sun,
they just can't help themselves
no grand speeches
but everyone sees, and is happy with them.*

[continued on next page]

Make us like that Lord
 so that faith is not in our words but in our lives
 not in what we say, but in who we are
 passing on your love like an infectious laugh:
 not worried, not threatening, just shining
 like the sun, like a starry night,
 like a lamp-stand,
 light for life -
 your light for our lives.

Let's pray in the month ahead that we, too, may shine.

Liam Pilgrim

Poem by Kathy Galloway from *This is the Day: Readings and Meditations from the Iona Community* (Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2007). Image of 'The sun's rays glisten over the Atlantic Ocean' (2020) by NASA, [The sun's rays glisten over the Atlantic Ocean - NASA](https://www.nasa.gov/feature/the-sun-s-rays-glisten-over-the-atlantic-ocean) [accessed 18.12.25].

Sunday Readings

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|--|---|
| 4th January 2026 Epiphany (for 6th January) | <i>Psalm 72: [1-9] 10-15</i> <i>Isaiah 60:1-6</i> <i>Matthew 2:1-12</i> |
| 11th January 2026 Epiphany 1 (Baptism of Christ) | <i>Psalm 29</i> <i>Isaiah 42:1-9</i> <i>Matthew 3:13-end</i> |
| 18th January 2026 Epiphany 2 | <i>Psalm 40:1-12</i> <i>Isaiah 49:1-7</i> <i>John 1:29-42</i> |
| 26th January 2026 Epiphany 3 | <i>Psalm 27:1,4-12</i> <i>Isaiah 9:1-4</i> <i>Matthew 4:12-23</i> |

| Day | Date | We pray especially for... |
|------------|-----------------|---|
| Thursday | 1 st | ...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. |
| Friday | 2 nd | ...our local communities and all who live and work in them. |
| Saturday | 3 rd | ...our two benefices and all their parishes, as we prepare for the licensing tomorrow of our newly arriving House for Duty Associate Priest (see also tomorrow's prayers) |

| Day | Date | We pray especially for... |
|------------|------------------|---|
| Sunday | 4 th | ... all worshipping together in our Holy Communion services this morning at Brooke and Woodton; the Revd Canon Susanna Gunner, and her husband Ben, as we welcome them to our benefices this afternoon at Susanna's licensing service in Brooke Church; all attending that service, from the local area and beyond. |
| Monday | 5 th | ...those who have a difficult relationship with alcohol, that in 'Dry January' they may experience a reset of body and mind. |
| Tuesday | 6 th | ...our children, young people, teachers and other staff in our local schools, as the new term starts today. |
| Wednesday | 7 th | ...all who offer their time and services as volunteers with charities and other organisations, working for the common good. |
| Thursday | 8 th | ...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 | 9 th | ...our environment, that we may take care of it. |
| Saturday | 10 th | ...all who engage in sport locally and everyone who supports and encourages them. |
| Sunday | 11 th | ...all participating in our services this morning of Morning Worship at Brooke and Holy Communion at Hempnall. |
| Monday | 12 th | ...those we know who are experiencing physical or mental ill health and those who provide care and support. |
| Tuesday | 13 th | ...our Ministry Team and for its continued growth, development and fruitfulness. |
| Wednesday | 14 th | ...all involved in the governance and co-ordination of our church activities, including Frances as our administrator and the members of our various church councils. |
| Thursday | 15 th | ...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. |
| Friday | 16 th | ...all offering support to older people, including the residents of local care homes. |
| Saturday | 17 th | ...all organising and attending community and social events in our villages. |
| Sunday | 18 th | ...our worship this morning at Brooke and Fritton, that it may be refresh and renew us. |
| Monday | 19 th | ...in this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Christians of all denominations, that we may work together in providing a Christian voice in society. |