

Tuesday 20th ...the meeting today of our Ministry Team (Lynn as our Vicar, John as a Licensed Lay Minister and Liam and Tim as Authorised Worship Assistants)

Wednesday 21st ...on the summer solstice, the glories of God's created world, that we may look after it better

Thursday 22nd ...our outward mission and the organisations (including Christian Aid, our local Food Banks and Emmaus Norfolk and Waveney) which we support by raising awareness and encouraging charitable giving; all who need the services they provide

Friday 23rd ... on day 485 of the invasion of Ukraine, all caught up and suffering in the resulting war; a just resolution of the conflict

Saturday 24th ...all those involved in our (civil) Parish Councils and other parts of local government; an enjoyable Midsummer Lunch today at Hedge End, Hempnall

Sunday (John the Baptist) 25th ...our worship this morning at Morningthorpe (Patronal Holy Communion), Topcroft and Thwaite and our monthly evening worship on Zoom; this afternoon's walk from Topcroft Church

Monday 26th ...the work of our Formation Team (Lynn, John, Ann, Jill and Liam), meeting today to take forward plans for the new benefice

Tuesday 27th ...the Joint Council of the existing Hempnall Group, holding its Annual Meeting this evening, with thanks for its work over the past year while in vacancy

Wednesday 28th ...those across the world who are marginalised or oppressed

Thursday 29th ...all preparing for baptisms, weddings and funerals in our new benefice

Friday 30th ...ourselves and those we know and love; and those unknown to us – all, everywhere, who need our prayers for whatever reason

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

Martin, Molly, Ian; **Bedingham/Woodton:** Sheila, Hilary, Peter, Liz, Anne, Chris, Barrie, Carolyn, Bruce, Pat, Anthea, Harry, Sally, Kath, Richard, Susan; **Brooke:** Liz and Bob, Diana; **Hempnall:** Lesley and family, Phillip, Sophie, Ross, Claire, David; **Topcroft:** Gerald;

and those in long term care:

Bedingham/Woodton: Dennis, Shirley, Jacob; **Brooke:** Marjory, Yvonne; **Fritton/Morningthorpe:** Beryl; **Mundham with Seething:** Margaret, Nancy.

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



The New Benefice Thoughts and Prayers June 2023

Sunday Readings

4th June Trinity Sunday	Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13:11–end Matthew 28:16–end
11th June Trinity 1 (St Barnabas the Apostle)	Psalm 112 Galatians 2:1–10 John 15:12–17
18th June Trinity 2	Psalm 100 Romans 5:1–8 Matthew 9:35–10:8
25th June Trinity 3 (John the Baptist)	Psalm 69:8–11, [12–17], 18–20 Romans 6:1b–11 Matthew 10:24–39

Reflection

Ordinary Time...

As we move into June, we are about to experience (after Trinity Sunday) a long period of so-called 'Ordinary Time' in the Church calendar.

The Christian year – with an annual sequence of festivals and seasons, interspersed with saints' days and some locally determined community commemorations – has had a long gestation. Its origins in the early church were unplanned and unco-ordinated, its early development largely organic, growing out of the faith practices of Christian communities over several centuries and in disparate geographical areas, with intermittent 'top-down' authorisation from Church authorities.

The resulting Church calendar is not just a dry schedule of dates. As we now have it, the year provides a sequence of opportunities to 'show and tell', in a coherent way, to ourselves and others, the essentials of the Christian story. In driving the liturgy through which we participate in worship, and with major festivals broadly (though not precisely) following the chronology of Christ's life, the calendar gives a synopsis of events, and, through them, of concepts and beliefs, that define us. Its celebration connects us to other Christians, past and present: it promotes identity.

Each part of the year, each season, gives us a different perspective. And 'Ordinary Time' is no exception. Deriving from the Latin 'ordinalis', which refers to numbers in a sequence and conveys a sense of being 'in order', the name in English is unfortunate: it sounds negative or boring. But it definitely need not be. It gives space for more continuous reading from the Bible (especially in this 'Year A' from Matthew) and allows time to explore other themes such as creation and the environment. There are many opportunities to take stock, to reflect, to learn and to grow.

This year especially, as we progress with the formation of our 'new benefice' and move to different service patterns, June will, in any case, seem anything but routine. It will be challenging. But we have in this 'Ordinary Time' ahead of us the opportunity to participate together in making something 'extraordinary'. Let's pray for God's guidance as we seek to do that:

May we treasure the past with thanksgiving,

May we embrace the future with hope,

May we journey ahead with confidence

~Liam Pilgrim ~

Prayers – This month

<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>We pray especially for...</i>
Thursday	1st	...our 'new benefice' as we go forward together under Lynn's leadership
Friday	2nd	...Lynn, our Ministry Team, our intercessors and lesson readers and all who share in enabling our worship together; our Formation Team, Churchwardens and all involved as representatives in decision making and forward planning
Saturday	3rd	...all who live and work within our communities

Sunday <i>(Trinity)</i>	4th	...the start of our worship together with a combined Holy Communion service at Bedingham; our Family Praise Team and their monthly afternoon service at Hempnall
Monday	5th	...World Environment Day, focussing on plastic pollution; the children and young people in our local schools and all who teach and support them as a new half-term begins
Tuesday	6th	...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
Wednesday	7th	...the global energy crisis, energy efficiency and climate imperatives
Thursday	8th	...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	9th	...all involved in the administration of our church activities, including Frances as our administrator, PCC Secretaries and PCC Treasurers
Saturday	10th	...all who volunteer in offering communal and social activities in our villages and all who participate in them
Sunday	11th	...our worship this morning at Mundham, Hempnall and Kirstead
Monday	12th	...our organists, singers and musicians; our bell ringers; our flower arrangers; our 'meeters and greeters'; our refreshment servers
Tuesday	13th	...all involved in church governance, especially those who serve on the PCCs across our two benefices as we meet together this evening in Hempnall Church
Wednesday	14th	...all in positions of authority and power in our world that they may act judiciously
Thursday	15thall who derive enjoyment and inspiration from visiting our churches and all involved in making them welcome
Friday	16th	...our neighbouring benefices and communities in the Depwade Deanery; our Bishops and our Diocese
Saturday	17th	...all organising local fetes, walks or other communal events which brighten our summer; a rousing brass band concert this evening in Brooke Church
Sunday	18th	...our worship this morning at Woodton, Brooke and Shelton; fathers everywhere and local events to mark Father's Day
Monday	19th	...all who give generously to the work of the church, financially or in other ways