

Day	Date	We pray especially for...
Wednesday	27th	... those who need the services of local foodbanks and those who make donations to them; ...our third and final Compline service tonight.
Thursday	28th	... as Norfolk schools begin the Easter break, our children and young people and all who teach and support their education; ...families throughout our villages; ...our worship together this evening, on this Maundy Thursday, at Topcroft.
Friday	29th	...on this Good Friday, our greater understanding of the significance of the death of Jesus on the Cross; ...our Pilgrimage today from Thwaite to Brooke.
Saturday	30th	...all, everywhere, who need us to pray with or for them, for whatever reason.
Sunday	31st	...the experience and sharing of Easter Day joy as we celebrate all that it means; ...our worship together in Hempnall and Brooke; ...our recognition of the glory of God in all creation.

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

Martin, Molly, Ian, Emma, Helen, Michael, Ann;

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

Hempnall: Lesley and family, Phillip, Sophie, 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:

Barbara Race, Iris Jordan, Lily Hinkley, Richard Deller

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

Material is drawn from Church of England Lent resources on 'Watch and Pray': <<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-calling/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/watch-and-pray-resources-lent-2024>>. The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for this year is 'Tarry Awhile: Wisdom from Black Spirituality for People of Faith' by Selina Stone. Painting by John William Inchbold- 'A Study, in March' (1855) - at: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_William_Inchbold> [accessed 26.2.24].



**The Brooke Benefice and
The Hempnall Group
Thoughts and Prayers
March 2024**

Tarry awhile...

'This Lent we are encouraged to wait expectantly for God to meet us and sustain us through the storms and trials we all face.'

That is the main message on the Church of England's website for Lent 2024, where the theme is headlined: *'Watch and Pray: Wisdom and hope for Lent and life'*.

Inspired and informed by the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for this year (see footnote), there is an emphasis on 'tarrying', a time of waiting on God both individually and together. As we wait, we watch, paying attention to things we might generally park or push away to deal with 'later'. And we pray - both for our own needs and for those of our neighbour:

Like many of us, I suspect, I don't always find it easy to 'tarry' in that sense. Things to do, people to see, places to go, must get on... It's so easy to be caught up in our 'busy-ness'.

During this Lent, therefore, it may be helpful, as we watch, to pray again:

*Gracious God,
May we treasure the past with thanksgiving,
May we embrace the future with hope,
May we journey ahead with confidence
In your love
and in your power
now and always,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

Yet I know, even though not always following the practice, that it's good, wise and necessary on occasion to slow down, to look, to pause, to take stock. Lent is one of those times where it's especially appropriate to 'mark time', consciously making more space for God and allowing things to come together, sometimes in an unexpected way, so that we can see the way forward.

And, of course, it's especially pertinent in our present, local, church circumstances - as we enter clergy vacancy - to reflect, to 'watch and pray', to 'tarry'. That doesn't mean unnecessary procrastination or inaction: on the contrary, it can mean, as noted, coming to grips with issues that we keep putting off. But above all, perhaps, it means being open and willing to try, ourselves and together, to discern where God is leading us.



~Liam Pilgrim~

Sunday Readings	
3rd March 2024 Lent 3	<i>Psalm 19:[1-6], 7-14</i> <i>Exodus 20:1-17</i> <i>John 2:13-22</i>
10th March 2024 Mothering Sunday*	<i>Psalm 34:11-20</i> <i>Exodus 2:1-10 or 1 Samuel 1:20-28</i> <i>Luke 2:33-35 or John 19:25b-27</i>
17th March 2024 Passion Sunday	<i>Psalm 51:1-13</i> <i>Jeremiah 31:31-34</i> <i>John 12:20-33</i>
24th March 2024 Palm Sunday	<i>Psalm 118:[1-2], 19-24</i> <i>Mark 11:1-11</i>
31st March 2024 Easter Day	<i>Psalm 118:[1-2], 14-24</i> <i>Acts 10:34-43</i> <i>John 20:1-18</i>

**readings may vary in our services and may include other material*

Prayers – This month

Day	Date	We pray especially for...
Friday	1st	...on the World Day of Prayer, the theme this year of 'bearing together with one another in love'; ...on this St David's Day, Wales, with its distinctive history and culture, and all other parts of the United Kingdom of which we're part.
Saturday	2nd	...our local communities and all who live and work in them.
Sunday	3rd	...our worship together in services this morning at Brooke and Hardwick and our Family Praise in Hempnall this afternoon; ...all our church communities as we enter clergy vacancy; ...on this UN World Wildlife Day, how we connect with our planet.
Monday	4th	...those this month who will be preparing for funerals; ...all those recently bereaved.
Tuesday	5th	...as part of our Lent Lunch series, the Seething Community Lunch in aid of Seething Church.
Wednesday	6th	...on our government's Budget Day, for politicians and all involved in public administration in this country, at all levels, that they may exercise sound judgement.
Thursday	7th	...our Ministry Team (John as a Licensed Lay Minister and Liam, Tim and Jackie as Authorised Worship Assistants) meeting today; ...our intercessors, lesson readers and all who share in enabling our worship together.

Day	Date	We pray especially for...
Friday	8th	...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.
Saturday	9th	...all running and attending community and social events in our villages.
Sunday	10th	...on Mothering Sunday, mothers and families everywhere; ...our worship together this morning in special services at Brooke, Hardwick, Hempnall and Topcroft.
Monday	11th	...our final Lent Lunch at Hempnall Mill Centre in aid of Emmaus; ...all who live and work in the Emmaus community at Ditchingham.
Tuesday	12th	...those we know who are experiencing physical or mental ill health and those who provide care and support.
Wednesday	13th	...all involved in church governance, serving on church Councils and acting as representatives in decision making and forward planning.
Thursday	14th	...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	15th	...those across the world who are marginalised or oppressed.
Saturday	16th	...all who volunteer in offering communal and social activities in our villages and all who participate in them.
Sunday	17th	...our worship this morning, on Passion Sunday, at Brooke and Bedingham; ...our March Walk from Hempnall Church this afternoon.
Monday	18th	...all involved in the administration of our church activities, including Frances as our administrator and our PCC Secretaries and Treasurers.
Tuesday	19th	...our organists, singers and musicians; ...our bell ringers, flower arrangers, 'meeters and greeters' and refreshment servers.
Wednesday	20th	...all who give generously to the work of the church, financially or in other ways.
Thursday	21st	...all offering support to older people.
Friday	22nd	...those across the world who are marginalised or oppressed.
Saturday	23rd	...all who run businesses/offer services in our communities.
Sunday	24th	...our worship this morning, on Palm Sunday, at Brooke and Hempnall and our monthly evening worship on Zoom.
Monday	25th	...this evening, at the end of our busy days, the first of our Compline services during Holy Week
Tuesday	26th	...all involved in our Mission Teams (Finance, Growing and Giving, Pastoral) and the work they do; ...our second Compline service this evening.