

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>We pray especially for...</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25th</b>	... those leading and attending services in Kirstead and Hempnall today.
<b>Monday</b>	<b>26th</b>	... those who need the services of local foodbanks and those who make donations to them;
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>27th</b>	... 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..
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>28th</b>	... all who provide pastoral support in our parishes, in many different ways.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>29th</b>	...those attending service in Brooke and Hempnall on this Ascension Day.
<b>Friday</b>	<b>30th</b>	...all involved in the Mission of the Church in our Benefices and in the world
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>31st</b>	...those across the world who are marginalised or oppressed.

**Throughout, we pray for those who especially need your help at this time, remembering:** Martin, Ian, Emma, Helen, Michael, Ann, Wendy, John, Cilla, Lynn

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

**Fritton/Morningthorpe:** Jason

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

**Long Term Care...**

**Bedingham/Woodton:** Dennis, Shirley, Jacob

**Fritton/Morningthorpe:** Beryl

**Hempnall:** Colin

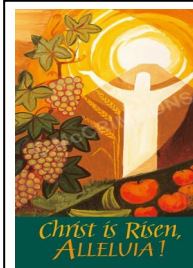
**Mundham/Seething:** Margaret, Nancy



**Recently Deceased and Upcoming Funerals...**

Barrie Buckland, Andrew Matthewson, The Revd Canon Lynn Chapman

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



## ***The Brooke Benefice and The Hempnall Group Thoughts and Prayers May 2025***

### ***Thought for the month...***

The winter has passed and as I look out of my window the apple trees are full of blossom; the blackbirds are looking for nesting material and there is a feeling of hope as I look forward to summer. However, as I look forward it is also with a sense of sadness as I think of the summers spent as a child and a teenager with my parents. Summer holidays enjoying the sandy beaches in Norfolk or the views of hills in Wales, the days out to the zoo or just helping in the garden. These are very fond memories that will always be with me. My parents are no longer with us but the memory lives on. My thoughts this month are also of a number of friends and family who are no longer with us or are seriously ill. It is at times like this that there can be challenges to our faith – why has God let this happen? The readings for Good Friday, which were read on our benefice pilgrimage, gave me some comfort, even Jesus on the cross cries out “My God why have you forsaken me?”. And then there is the question, what is after death? In the funeral service I use the following in prayer “In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life, and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven”. In thinking about the loss of a loved one I have found the poem ‘Crossing the Bar’ by Alfred Lord Tennyson helpful. It presents the journey from life into death as if calmly advancing into a new phase. It is like seeing a ship sailing away and as it disappears over the horizon, it is still there, in another place.



*Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar,  
When I put out to sea,*

*But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
Turns again home.*

*[continued on next page]*

Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell,  
When I embark;  
For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have cross'd the bar.

Easter is a time for looking forward, the angel's message to Mary at the tomb was not to be afraid but to go and meet Jesus. We can meet Jesus every day in prayer, in caring for our neighbours, in living out the Gospel. And we can look forward in the knowledge of those whom we see no longer but were an influence on our lives, as parents, as friends, as companions. God is there to guide us, care for us, be there in difficult times to comfort us and at the end – dwelling in God's house for evermore, to a place where there is no weeping, no hurt but everlasting joy. Our memories of those we mourn are of people full of life and we give thanks and are better off for having known them.

May God keep and bless you all, ~John Ash~

Sunday Readings	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	Psalm 30 Acts 9.1-20 John 21. 1-19
<b>11<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	Psalm 23 Acts 9. 36-end John 10. 22-30
<b>18<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	Psalm 148 Acts 11. 1-18 John 13. 31-35
<b>25<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	Psalm 67 Acts 16. 9-15 John 5. 1-9

Day	Date	We pray especially for...
Thursday	1st	... those involved in keeping our ancient traditions alive, morris dancing and maypole dancing on this May Day.
Friday	2nd	...we give thanks for the life of Pope Francis and pray for the Cardinals choosing his successor.
Saturday	3rd	... our intercessors, lesson readers and Churchwardens all who share in enabling our worship together.

Day	Date	We pray especially for...
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4th</b>	..... all those attending services today in Brooke, Morningthorpe and Hemphall.
Monday	5th	... all enjoying time together this Bank Holiday Monday.
Tuesday	6th	... our Ministry Team (John as a Licensed Lay Minister and Liam, Tim Jackie and Angela our Authorised Worship Assistants);
Wednesday	7th	...our Home Communion Assistants and all whom they visit during the month.
Thursday	8th	...on this celebration of VE Day, all those who selflessly gave their lives in the last world war.
Friday	9th	... those we know who are experiencing physical or mental ill health issues and those who provide care and support to them.
Saturday	10th	... those taking part in sports activities today as part of a team.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11th</b>	...Those attending services in Thwaite and Woodton this morning.
Monday	12th	...all involved in church governance, serving on Church Councils and acting as representatives in decision making and forward planning for our parishes, our deanery, our Diocese.
Tuesday	13th	... all involved in the administration of our church activities in the benefices, including Frances as our administrator and our PCC Secretaries and Treasurers.
Wednesday	14th	...all those attending Depwade Deanery Synod this evening.
Thursday	15th	...all who volunteer in offering communal and social activities in our villages and all who participate in them.
Friday	16th	.... all in our communities who are especially vulnerable.
Saturday	17th	... those gardeners tidying their gardens perhaps thinking how to provide a more wildlife friendly place.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>18th</b>	...The congregations and worship leaders in Brooke and Topcroft today.
Monday	19th	...all who give generously to the work of the church, financially or in other ways.
Tuesday	20th	... those who are involved in the running of the community cafes in Brooke and Seething.
Wednesday	21st	...peace in a divided world especially in the Ukraine, Israel and Palestine, Sudan and other countries at war.
Thursday	22nd	...all who run businesses/offer services in our communities.
Friday	23rd	...all offering support to older people and the less mobile in our parishes.
Saturday	24th	... our organists, singers and musicians; bell ringers, flower arrangers, 'meeters and greeters' and refreshment servers.