

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>We pray especially for...</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24th</b>	... congregations worshipping in our churches at Brooke and Hempnall on this Day of Pentecost Whit Sunday
<b>Monday</b>	<b>25th</b>	...all who are involved in advising on, and directing, the uses of artificial intelligence (A.I.) for the public good.
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>26th</b>	... all who provide pastoral support in our parishes, in many different ways.
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>27th</b>	...those who are working hard to understand and mitigate climate change and so protect the planet we call home.
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>28th</b>	... all whose jobs involve unsocial hours which sometimes means missing out on occasions and opportunities that others take for granted.
<b>Friday</b>	<b>29th</b>	...all those who care for children and do their best to ensure that the next generation flourishes.
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>30th</b>	...gardeners whose labours provide such wonderful displays at this time of year for us all to enjoy.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>31st</b>	...everyone attending our special Joint Benefice Service today and the picnic lunch afterwards.

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

Martin, Ian, Emma, Helen, Michael, Ann

**Bedingham/Woodton:** Sheila, Hilary, Anne, Bruce, Richard, Susan, Marco, David

**Fritton/Morningthorpe:** Jason, Carol

**Hempnall:** Lesley and family, Sophia

**Topcroft:** Candy, Penny

**Long Term Care...**

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

**Hempnall:** Colin, Denise

**Mundham/Seething:** Margaret, Nancy



**Recently Died and Upcoming Funerals...**

*Robin Sayer*

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

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

With each passing week the mornings and evenings are progressively lighter. This usually both lifts our spirits and turns our thoughts to such tasks as spring cleaning and gardening. The increased activity, enabled by the longer days and the warmer temperature, can mean we do not spend enough time reflecting on how much things have changed since winter ended. It's during May that the strengthening sun wakes up a very large array of our wildflowers from oxeye daisies and buttercups to the lacy roadside banks of tall cow parsley.



Also notable in May's warmth and sunniness is the emergence of various insects; some of which are very short lived. St. Mark's flies peak on 25th April but populations can be seen lazily hanging in the air until around mid-May. They are one of nature's reliable wonders alongside the arrival of cuckoos, swifts and swallows from their winter quarters in Africa.

The changes, so gloriously apparent by the month of May, also affect the built environment. How different the interior of our historic buildings can appear once the sun is stronger and higher in the sky. Inside our own cathedral some of the detailing previously hidden in winter's shadows is now astonishingly visible. It's as if, with the seasonal shift, the craft and skill of ancient workers has been lit by a spotlight, and we can see their labours anew.

This experience of "seeing things differently" extends to the light shed through the Cathedral's stained-glass windows. Some can project an almost kaleidoscopic effect on the creamy Caen stone. The flood of predominantly blue, orange and "almost purple" produced by the McLean windows is especially joyful. Small children have been known to spontaneously dance in the luminous beams!

A feeling of awe and wonder can be triggered by any of the things mentioned in the paragraphs above - they are all things which have the capability of provoking an instantaneous response or literally *stopping you in your tracks*. The month of May contains

two very special days in the church calendar which are awesome and wonder-full in the true sense of these words. Namely, Ascension Day (14th May) and Pentecost (24th May). We look forward to marking them each year and revisiting their message.

Embracing all the spiritual nourishment offered to us at this time gives us strength which, in turn, enables us to both face the troubled world we live in with hope and faith and offer our service to others afresh.

As we walk in the light may we, in our own small way, help transform the world.

**Angela Garner**

<b>Sunday Readings</b>	
3rd May 2026 5th Sunday of Easter	Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16 Acts 7: 55-60 John 14: 1-14
10th May 2026 6th Sunday of Easter Rogation Sunday	Psalm 66: 7-end Acts 17: 22-31 John 14: 15-21
17th May 2026 7th Sunday of Easter	Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-end Acts 1: 6-14 John 17: 1-11
24th May 2026 Pentecost	Psalm 104: 26-36, 37b Acts 2: 1-21 John 20: 19-23 or John 7: 37-39
31st May 2026 Trinity Sunday	Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13: 11-end Matthew 28: 16-end

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<i>Friday</i>	<i>1st</i>	...all those participating in, or attending, traditional celebrations of Maytime.
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>2nd</i>	...peace in our fractured world and an end to the death, suffering, devastation, distress and heartache that conflict brings.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3rd</b>	...those congregations gathering today at Brooke, Topcroft and Hempnall.
<i>Monday</i>	<i>4th</i>	... our Ministry Team (Austin as Priest in Charge, Susanna as Associate Priest, John and Liam as Licensed Lay Ministers and Jackie, Tim and Angela as Authorised Worship Assistants).
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>5th</i>	...all those celebrating their wedding anniversary in the coming weeks.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>We pray especially for...</b>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>6th</i>	...all farmers, farm workers and smallholders as they tend their crops and administer careful husbandry to their livestock.
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>7th</i>	...those who are lonely and those who try to alleviate this.
<i>Friday</i>	<i>8th</i>	...on this 81st anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, all those who selflessly gave their lives in the Second World War.
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>9th</i>	...those we know who are experiencing physical or mental ill health and those who provide help and support for them.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10th</b>	...our parishes. We thank God for all our churches, communities, farms, footpaths, bridleways, woodlands, ponds and streams.
<i>Monday</i>	<i>11th</i>	...all those who work for the charity Christian Aid and all those fundraising for them during Christian Aid Week (10-16 May).
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>12th</i>	...all involved in making our churches feel welcoming and inviting for worshippers, pilgrims and visitors alike.
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>13th</i>	...Christians all over the world who put themselves in personal danger to undertake God's work.
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>14th</i>	...congregations gathering in our Churches at Brooke and Hempnall to remember the Ascension of our Lord.
<i>Friday</i>	<i>15th</i>	...composers, song writers, musicians, choirs and performers whose music brings richness and joy to our lives.
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>16th</i>	...everyone playing sport today and those supporting them including those travelling to, or directly involved with, today's FA Cup Final.
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17th</b>	... those leading and participating in services in Seething and Bedingham today.
<i>Monday</i>	<i>18th</i>	...health workers, carers and others who tend to the practical day-to-day needs of people who are sick or suffering.
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>19th</i>	...all those who volunteer in our communities.
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>20th</i>	...the litter pickers, official or unofficial, who strive to keep our local environment tidy and free of hazards to wildlife.
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>21st</i>	...an end to homelessness and rough sleeping and the extreme vulnerability this brings with it.
<i>Friday</i>	<i>22nd</i>	... all school children, teachers and classroom assistants as they break up for half term.
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>23rd</i>	...those for whom price rises are a constant worry as they navigate how best to allocate the budget available to them.