

Day	Date	We pray especially for...
Thursday	23rd	...our local businesses, that they may thrive.
Friday	24th	...the children, young people, teachers and other staff of our local schools as the first half-term of this school year ends today.
Saturday	25th	...as we head for the shops or enjoy a night out, those working in retail and hospitality.
Sunday	26th	...our Holy Communion service this morning at Topcroft, Morning Worship at Mundham and our monthly evening worship on Zoom.
Monday	27th	...politicians and all involved in public administration in this country, at all levels, that they may exercise sound judgement.
Tuesday	28th	...the charities and organisations (specific to each of us) which we support individually throughout the year; the causes they represent.
Wednesday	29th	...our families, friends and all who are dear to us.
Thursday	30th	...those across the world who are marginalised or oppressed.
Friday	31st	...all who need us to pray with or for them, for whatever reason.

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

remembering: Martin, Ian, Emma, Helen, Michael, Ann, Wendy, Cilla

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

Fritton/Morningthorpe: Jason

Hempnall: Lesley and family, Sophia, Claire, David

Topcroft: Candy

Long Term Care...

Bedingham/Woodton: Dennis, Shirley, Jacob

Fritton/Morningthorpe: Beryl

Hempnall: Colin

Mundham/Seething: Margaret, Nancy



Recently Deceased and Upcoming Funerals...

Ned Potts, Barrie Launchbury, Clarence Barnes, Pamela Arnold, Gordon Taylor

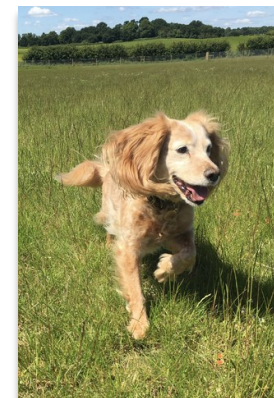
(Compiled by and for the Brooke Benefice and the Hempnall Group of Parishes)



The Brooke Benefice and The Hempnall Group Thoughts and Prayers October 2025

Happy Places...

What and where are our 'happy places'? What locations, or circumstances, or activities bring us such joy and contentment that even thinking of them, in memory or in prospect, is sufficient to make us feel happy and relaxed? Here's a 'thumbnail' picture of one of mine – walking with my dog, Ripple, sharing her evident sense of pleasure and adventure at being out and about.



It's only in the past 30 years or so that the 'happy place' phrase, now so common, has been in general use, with the Oxford English Dictionary attributing its first appearance in print to an article in *The Ottawa Citizen* in 1994. Of course, the search for happiness is not new: the philosophers of ancient Greece, including Plato and Aristotle, were exploring it well over 2,000 years ago and its pursuit has remained a constant human endeavour. Now, however, identifying our 'happy place' is mainstream, linked with concepts of well-being and mindfulness which aren't restricted just to New Age practitioners of meditation but are part of the general cultural landscape.

Whatever our individual triggers for happiness, an extra dimension for us as Christians is to consider where and how our faith plays into this. It may impact some of our choices but more fundamentally it may cause us to rephrase the question. If we ask ourselves, 'Where do we find God?', how do our answers to that question compare with any mental list we've made of our 'happy places'? Are they the same? If they're different, can we work out why?

Of course, I'm not saying that we only seek or find God when we're happy or that happiness is the only emotion involved in the relationship we have or would like to have with God. But I am suggesting that if we do indeed find apparently secular 'happy places' – be they a favourite landscape or our garden or knitting or dancing – we should actively seek to acknowledge, with gratitude, God's presence there with us as we enjoy them, whatever and wherever they are.

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And since as Christians we believe that God’s presence is all around us, perhaps we need to work a little on our attentiveness, so that we recognise and experience more readily and more fully God’s closeness and activity, expanding as we do so our personal range of ‘happy places’. Let’s pray that, through God’s grace, we’re enabled to do that.

Amen.

~Liam Pilgrim~
(Photo: privately supplied)

Sunday Readings	
The passage below are those set for each Sunday in the Common Lectionary but readings at services in our benefices will vary when there are Harvest Thanksgivings or other special services.	
5th October 2025 Trinity 16	<i>Psalm 37:1-9</i> <i>2 Timothy 1:1-14</i> <i>Luke 17:5-10</i>
12th October 2025 Trinity 17	<i>Psalm 111</i> <i>2 Timothy 2:8-15</i> <i>Luke 17:11-19</i>
19th October 2025 Trinity 18	<i>Psalm 121</i> <i>2 Timothy 3:14-4:5</i> <i>Luke 18:1-8</i>
26th October 2025 Last after Trinity	<i>Psalm 84:1-7</i> <i>2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18</i> <i>Luke 18:9-14</i>

Day	Date	We pray especially for...
Wednesday	1st	...our local communities and all who live and work in them; our two benefices as we prepare for Revd Susanna Gunner to join us early in 2026 as our part-time House for Duty Associate Priest.
Thursday	2nd	...our present Ministry Team (John, Liam, Tim, Jackie and Angela) and our visiting clergy; our intercessors and readers; our organists, singers and musicians; our bell ringers, flower arrangers, ‘meeters and greeters’ and refreshment servers.
Friday	3rd	...all involved in in church governance across our Deanery and in our benefices, serving on church Councils and acting as representatives in decision making and forward planning.
Saturday	4th	...remembering today the life of Francis of Assisi, the whole of creation and our guardianship of it.
Sunday	5th	...our Harvest Festival today at Brooke; a service of celebration with our animals at Bedingham; and All Age Praise at Hempnall. ...the work of the charities being supported by collections at all our Harvest services (the Norwich and Waveney Foodbanks and YANA, which supports the mental health of those in rural occupations and communities).

Day	Date	We pray especially for...
Monday	6th	... our Home Communion Assistants and those to whom they minister; all in our churches who provide pastoral care within our communities in many different ways.
Tuesday	7th	...those we know who are experiencing physical or mental ill health and those, including their family and friends, who provide care and support.
Wednesday	8th	...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.
Thursday	9th	...all involved in the administration of our church activities, including Frances as our administrator and our PCC Secretaries and Treasurers.
Friday	10th	...World Homeless Day; all who are without secure housing; those in hostels or sleeping rough; all who work to mitigate and eradicate homelessness, including, in our local area, Emmaus at Ditchingham and St Martin’s in Norwich which our churches have supported.
Saturday	11th	...all who engage in sport locally and everyone who supports and encourages them.
Sunday	12th	...our Holy Communion service at Hempnall and Harvest Festival today at Kirstead.
Monday	13th	...our East Anglian coastline, rivers and Broads, that we may take care of them.
Tuesday	14th	...the Depwade Deanery Synod, meeting this evening in Long Stratton; its chairs (Revd Michael Windridge as our Rural Dean and John Ash as the elected Lay Chair); and all the benefices and parishes represented there, that we may learn and grow together.
Wednesday	15th	...all who work in health and social care and all who need he services they provide.
Thursday	16th	...World Food Day, raising awareness of the issues behind poverty and hunger; all the charities which work to promote action for the future of food, people and the planet.
Friday	17th	...all offering support to older people.
Saturday	18th	...children and young people, and their families, in our communities.
Sunday	19th	...our services of Holy Communion at Brooke and Harvest Thanksgivings at Bedingham and Shelton.
Monday	20th	...at the end of out harvest celebrations, all those involved in agriculture and in all aspects of food production and distribution.
Tuesday	21st	...those who need the services of local foodbanks and those who make donations to them.
Wednesday	22nd	...our emergency services and the dedication of those who work in them.