

Day	Date	We pray especially for...
Wednesday	23 rd	...those who suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder (S.A.D.) and struggle with the reduction in sunlight autumn and winter brings.
Thursday	24 th	...the providers of our emergency services and other crucial services on which we rely.
Friday	25 th	...all who are involved in advising on, and directing, the uses of new medicines and the latest medical procedures.
Saturday	26 th	... the volunteers who organise activities in our villages. Everyone involved with the events at Hempnall Church and Hardwick Village Hall today.
Sunday	27th	...everyone attending the services at Kirstead and Woodton today and all those joining the Zoom service this evening.
Monday	28 th	... those who are struggling with the cost of living and are worrying about how to meet heating costs when the temperatures start to drop.
Tuesday	29 th	...our families, loved ones and all we hold dear.
Wednesday	30 th	...our Ministry Team, Churchwardens, Treasurers, P.C.C. Members and others who work hard to keep our churches flourishing.

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

Martin, Ian, Michael, Ann

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

Fritton/Morningthorpe: Jason, Carol

Hempnall: Lesley and family, Sophia

Shelton/Hardwick: Maureen

Topcroft: Candy, Penny

Long Term Care...

Bedingham/Woodton: Dennis, Shirley, Jacob, Sally

Hempnall: Colin, Denise

Mundham/Seething: Margaret, Nancy

Recently Died and Upcoming Funerals...

June Cutting

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



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

Thoughts About Harvest...

As we are all well aware the grain harvest in Norfolk’s fields began well ahead of the average time. Work in some early winter barley fields started whilst we were still in June. The impact of this year’s drought and soaring heat on our farmers has been very much in the news.

We have a tendency to strongly associate harvest with grain, in this part of the world, because we are surrounded by fields of it but we shouldn’t overlook our other principal crops. The British Sugar factory at Cantley usually starts processing beet from early October and maincrop potatoes will need to be brought in shortly for winter storage. Meanwhile some of the oilseed rape, harvested in August, is already starting to be pressed and bottled. We give our grateful thanks for all of it.



The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible features the word “harvest” well over fifty times and if we include the word “reap”, and the participles of both words, the total goes up substantially. Sometimes these words are used literally and other times as a metaphor. In the New Testament they feature prominently in passages and parables we are all familiar with. Knowing the Bible’s two fold use of the word we can consider what we should do as Christians as we celebrate the harvest. We can, and should, give thanks and share the harvest, preserve and store fruit and vegetables carefully and make plans for the future planting of our own gardens or community spaces. However, we should also consider the metaphorical harvest - the harvest of souls. This includes being prepared to share with others our own stories about how we came to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ. In so doing, we can all help nurture this harvest of a different kind.

The famous 18th century diary of Parson James Woodforde shows how his life in Weston Longville, Norfolk was governed by a combination of the church calendar and the demands and traditions of a rural community. There are several mentions of harvest time including one or two of the old East Anglian custom of largesse. Evidently, farm labourers used to ask for monetary gifts from wealthier people during

the harvest-home period - sometimes using the cry “Largesse” which has its origins in an old french word implying “generosity”. Our harvest collections in church this year will be for “WaterAid” which aims to change lives with the gift of clean and safe water. A good destination for our largesse.

Angela Garner

Sunday Readings	
6th September Trinity 14	Psalm 96 Genesis 1: 1 - 2:3 John 1: 1-5 and 10-14
13th September Trinity 15	Psalm 104: 1-30 Isaiah 19: 5-10 John 21: 1-14
20th September Trinity 16	Psalm 82 Amos 5: 1, 11-12, 16-17, 21-24 Luke 12: 13-21
27th September Trinity 17	Psalm 42 Ezekiel 47: 1-1 John 4: 1-14

Day	Date	We pray especially for...
Tuesday	1 st	...all farmers, farm workers and smallholders as they tend to their land amid the challenges of our climate. We thank them for taking care of their harvests and we value the fruits of their labour.
Wednesday	2 nd	...all those organising, participating in, or attending services and other celebrations of harvest over the coming weeks.
Thursday	3 rd	...the schools in our benefices as the new school year begins. For the classroom assistants and teachers who nurture our young generation.
Friday	4 th	...everyone who has recently started a new job especially Wendy our new Administrator for The Hempnall Group and the Brooke Benefice.
Saturday	5 th	...all those celebrating their wedding anniversary in the coming weeks.

Day	Date	We pray especially for...
Sunday	6 th	...the congregations gathering for Holy Communion at Brooke and Topcroft on this day: “ <i>The Feast of Creation in Christ</i> ”.
Monday	7 th	...all those who struggle with literacy, for whatever reason, and the professionals and volunteers who help them.
Tuesday	8 th	...the royal family on this the 4th anniversary of the accession of King Charles III.
Wednesday	9 th	...those we know who are experiencing physical or mental ill health and those who provide help and support for them.
Thursday	10 th	...everyone attending the new Bible Study Group at Brooke Vicarage this evening.
Friday	11 th	...all those involved with the Heritage Open Days taking place over the next 10 days in Norwich and across our county.
Saturday	12 th	...all those joining in the Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride, Walk & Drive today together with all the helpers and kind sponsors.
Sunday	13 th	...the congregations gathering and worshipping today at Hempnall and Seething.
Monday	14 th	...those inspired by Christ today on the Feast of the Holy Cross.
Tuesday	15 th	...on this Battle of Britain Day, all those air and ground crew who lost their lives during the Battle of Britain together with the civilians who died during the bombing campaigns of this period.
Wednesday	16 th	...those recently bereaved and everyone who supports them.
Thursday	17 th	...organists, choristers and other makers of music in our churches and at Norwich Cathedral.
Friday	18 th	...all bell ringers. We give thanks for their presence calling congregations to worship and giving pleasure to the wider community.
Saturday	19 th	...all those being licensed as Lay Ministers at Norwich Cathedral today, especially Tim Francis.
Sunday	20 th	...the congregations gathering today for the services at Brooke, Fritton and Thwaite.
Monday	21 st	...peace in our world on this the International Day of Peace. St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist.
Tuesday	22 nd	...all those who pick up rubbish and help keep our communities clean, tidy and litter free.