

***This week we pray in love for:
The welfare of those in need***

- ♦ Our home communicants
- ♦ Those suffering in body, mind or spirit
- ♦ The housebound
- ♦ The lonely or bereaved
- ♦ The work of Dunstable Foodbank

In our Diocesan Prayer Diary, we pray for the parish of St. Peter's Watford.

December prayers for...

Kensworth

Kensworth School, all families and carers

Studham

Studham School, all families and carers

Whipsnade

Studham School, all families and carers

This week please remember in your prayers: those in the midst of illness, operations or accidents, including Frank and Barbara Walker, Trish Palmer, Alan Geeson, Jo Hutchinson, Clifford Bygrave, Ann and Malcolm Weir, Wendy Kennedy, Pat Mitchell, Chris Hazell, Angela, Catherine, Hilda, Mike; and those who have died recently, including Bruce Turvey, Freda Hazell and Margaret Simmons.

Do you have a name or a request for prayer that you wish to have included on this prayer list? Please email Nicola on revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com before Thursday each week.

A prayer for this week: Thank you, Lord, that in your perfect world, there is no room for hate, no room for differences that tear people apart, only room for love. Show us your love, Lord, **Amen.**

Readings for next week: Isaiah 35: 1-10;
James 5: 7-10; Matthew 11: 2-11

Dates for your diary

- **Sunday 7th December, 11am-1pm** – Donations of new and second-hand goods welcome at Studham Methodist Chapel for their Giving Sunday Appeal to share with local charities (more details in 'Parish Link')
- **Sunday 7th December, 2pm** – 'Village Carols', Studham Church. Come along and choose your favourite carol to sing – followed by refreshments
- **Thursday 11th December, 11am** – Knoll House Carol Service, Studham. All volunteer voices welcome!
- **Thursday 11th December, 2pm** – Funeral and burial of Bruce Turvey, Whipsnade Church
- **Friday 12th December, 12.45pm** – Memorial and thanksgiving service for Freda Hazell, Whipsnade Church
- **Saturday 13th December, 9.30am** – Kensworth Christingle making, Kensworth Church Hall
- **Monday 15th December, 10am** – Funeral and burial of Margaret Simmons, Whipsnade Church
- **Monday 15th December, 2.30pm** – Kensworth School Christmas Service, Kensworth Methodist Church
- **Tuesday 16th December, 6.30pm** – Carol singing round Whipsnade Home Park – all singers welcome!
- **Thursday 18th December, 8.45am** – Studham School Christmas Service, Studham Church
- **Thursday 18th December, 1.30pm** – Interment of ashes, Kensworth Church

Foodbank requirements:

Long-life fruit juice; tinned meat in sauce; pulses; instant mash; rice pudding; tinned soup; tinned vegetables; long-life milk; carrier bags.

Welcome to the United Benefice of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade

*Part of the North Chilterns Group of
Parishes*

Sunday 7th December 2025
Second Sunday of Advent

Kensworth	10.30am – Taizé Holy Communion
Studham	10.30am – Family Service 2.00pm – Village Carols
Whipsnade	9.00am – Holy Communion

Services next week: 14th December

Kensworth	10.30am – Christingle Service 2.00pm – 'Light out of Darkness' – carols for the bereaved and those who need a quieter carol service
Studham	10.30am – Holy Communion
Whipsnade	9.00am – Holy Communion with Sunday School

If this is your first visit to one of our churches, then please make yourself known as we're a friendly lot – really! The rector (Nicola) can be reached on (01582) 872223 or at revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com. Please also email Nicola if you'd like to receive this service sheet weekly by email. We hope you enjoy your time with us.

Sunday 7th December 2025
Second Sunday of Advent

The Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from Isaiah

Isaiah 11: 1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans
Romans 15: 4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God



Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew

All: Glory to You, O Lord

Matthew 3: 1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to You, O Christ

Prayer after Communion

Father in heaven, who sent your son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming, that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS:

What do you find surprising about the description of the world in the passage from Isaiah?

For parents and carers: ask your children, "How would you feel if you were lost and needed to know the way?"