

This week we pray in love for:

Home and family life

- ◆ Kensworth and Studham Schools; the staff, pupils, governors, and parents
- ◆ Toddler groups
- ◆ Uniformed organisations
- ◆ Family life
- ◆ Those preparing for marriage

In our Diocesan Prayer Diary, we pray for the parish of Renhold in the Deanery of Bedford

March prayers for...

Kensworth

The Chilterns

Studham

Holywell Road and Holywell Close

Whipsnade

All businesses in the village

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, Chris Hazell, Catherine, Hilda, Mike, Karen, Stephen, Nick; and those who have died recently, including Eileen Kinross and Des Salmon.

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: God our mother, you hold our life within you, nourish us at your breast and teach us to walk alone. Help us so to receive your tenderness and respond to your challenge that others may draw life from us, in your name, Amen.

Readings for next week: Ezekiel 37: 1-14;
Romans 8: 6-11; John 11: 1-45

• ***Dates for your diary***

- **Tuesday 17th March, 12.30pm** – Dunstable Deanery Chapter
- **Tuesday 17th March, 7.30-9pm** – NCG Lent Course on prayer, Totternhoe Church Hall
- **Wednesday 18th March, 10-12noon** – Whipsnade Coffee Morning, Whipsnade Church
- **Thursday 19th March, 7.30pm** – Kensworth PCC
- **Friday 20th March, from 3.30pm** – Studham Kids' Club, Studham Church
- **Saturday 21st March, from 9am onwards** – Kensworth churchyard working party
- **Tuesday 24th March, 2.30pm** – Kensworth School Easter Service, Kensworth Methodist Church
- **Tuesday 24th March, 2-4pm** – Knit & Natter, Whipsnade Church
- **Wednesday 25th March, 12.30pm** – Whipsnade Village Lunch, Whipsnade Village Hall
- **Friday 27th March, 9am** – Studham School Easter Service, Studham Church
- **Saturday 28th March, 8.30-9.30pm** – 'Earth Hour', Studham Church. Come and join us for candlelit soup and a roll, songs, poems and stargazing

Foodbank requirements:

Long-life fruit juice; solid meat; savoury biscuits/crackers; tinned fruit; tinned vegetables; jam; long-life milk; carrier bags. No pasta or rice please.

On Tuesday evenings in Lent at 7.30pm why not come along to Totternhoe Church Hall for 'The Adventure of Prayer', our annual North Chilterns Group Lent course?

Or commit to something every day at <https://www.stewardship.org.uk/40-acts-sign-up>

Welcome to the United Benefice of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade

Part of the North Chilterns Group of Parishes

Sunday 15th March 2026

Mothering Sunday / Fourth Sunday of Lent

Kensworth 10.30am – Mothering Sunday Service **at the Methodist Church**

Studham 10.30am – Mothering Sunday Service

Whipsnade 9.00am – Mothering Sunday Service

Services next week: 22nd March

Kensworth 8.00am – Holy Communion
10.30am – Family Service

Studham 10.30am – Holy Communion
Whipsnade 9.00am – Holy Communion

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 15th March 2026

Mothering Sunday / Fourth Sunday of Lent

The Collect

God of compassion whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

A reading from the first book of Samuel

Once there was a woman called Hannah, who really really wanted to have a baby. She knew that sometimes, however hard you want something and however much you pray, it doesn't always happen. Yet she kept on hoping and praying – and in her mind she said, "If I am ever lucky enough to have a baby, I will make sure that he learns to love God, even if that means that he has to go away from me one day".

Hannah's dreams and longings came true. She had a son, and called him Samuel, which means "God has heard me". When Samuel was old enough, Hannah kept her promise. She took him to the temple, and said to Eli (who was the priest and the teacher), "Teach my Samuel to love God with all his heart and soul and mind and strength. I give him to you to take care of". Samuel stayed with Eli and learned to listen to God.

Here ends the first reading.



A reading from Luke's gospel

Jesus' mother and father had taken the baby Jesus to the temple to be blessed. There they met Simeon, and old and wise man, who recognised Jesus as the Son of God – someone who would save everyone. He blessed Jesus, and Mary and Joseph too. But then he said to Mary, "This child will change peoples' lives in ways that many won't expect. He will make enemies; and one day your heart will break with pain too".

Here ends the second reading.

Prayer after Communion

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS:

Take a moment to give thanks for all those who have mothered you in your life.

For parents and carers: ask your children: "What does a mum do? How could you say thank you to your mum or someone who cares for you today?"