

This week we pray in love for:

The Church

- ♦ The Diocese of St. Albans; Bishop Elect of St Albans, Bishop Andrew; Bishops Richard and Jane
 - ♦ Dunstable Deanery
 - ♦ Our benefice; our rector Nicola; our readers Dorothy and Penny; our associate priest Dave; our LLWs Jane and Meg
 - ♦ Our PCCs and churchwardens; Steve, Jane, Jo, Meg, Martin and Jane
 - ♦ Our treasurers and secretaries; Barrie, Lindsey, Les; Jo, Caroline, Joan
 - ♦ The North Chilterns Group of Parishes
- In our Diocesan Prayer Diary, we pray for the parish of Nettleden in the Deanery of Berkhamsted

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, Des Salmon and Brian Davis.

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: Powerful God, we so easily forget your goodness to us. We doubt your ability to help us. We tire ourselves out trying to do it all ourselves. Wake us up to your presence. **Amen.**

Readings for next week: Palm Gospel; Isaiah 50: 4-9a

• ***Dates for your diary***

- **Tuesday 24th March, 2.30pm** – Kensworth School Easter Service, Kensworth Methodist Church
- **Tuesday 24th March, 2-4pm** – Knit & Natter, Whipsnade Church
- **Tuesday 24th March, 7.30-9pm** – NCG Lent Course on prayer, Totternhoe Church Hall
- **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
- **Tuesday 31st March, 2pm** – Funeral and interment of ashes of Brian Davis, Whipsnade Church
- **Wednesday 1st April, 10.30am** – Funeral and burial of Eileen Kinross, Whipsnade Church

Please pray for the Bishop Elect of St. Albans, the Rt. Revd Dr Andrew Rumsey, currently Suffragan Bishop of Ramsey in the Diocese of Salisbury. Pray for his family and all those who support him.

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 22nd March 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent / Passion Sunday

Kensworth 8.00am – Holy Communion
10.30am – Family Service
Studham 10.30am – Holy Communion
Whipsnade 9.00am – Holy Communion

**Services next week: 29th March –
CLOCKS GO FORWARD**

Kensworth 10.30am – Benefice 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 22nd March 2026
Fifth Sunday of Lent / Passion Sunday

The Collect

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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 Book of Ezekiel

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.' So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people.

I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.'

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All: Glory to you, O Lord

John 11: 1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." "The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the

life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen**

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS:

Are you awake to new possibilities and opportunities.

For parents and carers: ask your children: "What has helped you when you have felt really sad?"