

This week we pray in love for:

The worshipping life of the churches

- ♦ Sunday worship
- ♦ Those who read and lead intercessions on Sunday mornings
- ♦ Those preparing for baptism and confirmation; our confirmands, Fay, Tabitha, James, Jessica, Christopher, Oliwier
- ♦ The Sunday Schools and Children's Church and their leaders
- ♦ Our Messy Church and Kids' Club and their helpers
- ♦ All visitors and newcomers

In our Diocesan Prayer Diary, we pray for the parish of All Saints, Hockerill in the deanery of Bishop's Stortford

April prayers for...

Kensworth

Common Road from Hollicks Lane to Isle of Wight Lane

Studham

Dunstable Road, Southern Way, Bell Farm Close and Bell Cottages

Whipsnade

Oldhill Wood and Byslips Road

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; and those who have died recently, including John Chaplin.

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: Holy Spirit, you promise abundant life; life full of God's love. We pray that this love overflows from us and brings peace and comfort to those who need it. Amen.

Readings for next week: Genesis 8: 1-19; Acts 7: 55-end; John 14: 1-14

• ***Dates for your diary***

- **Tuesday 28th April, 7.30pm** – Wedding rehearsal, Studham Church
- **Wednesday 29th April, 2.45pm** – Studham School Collective Worship, Studham School
- **Sunday 3rd May, from 11.30am** – Kensworth May Festival, Kensworth Church
- **Saturday 9th May, 12.30-6.30pm** – Studham May Fair, Playing Fields

Foodbank requirements:

Long-life fruit juice; tinned fruit; tinned vegetables, including carrots, peas and sweetcorn please; jam; peanut butter; honey; long-life milk; sweets or chocolate; pasta sauce; carrier bags. No pasta or rice please.

A warm welcome to Lucy Hamilton, who will be talking about the work of Christian Aid today at Kensworth.

Christian Aid 80th anniversary prayer

God of justice and mercy, we cry out for a world where we all are treated as equals, where no one is oppressed, and dignity belongs to all people. Break the chains of injustice. Lift up the weak, humble, and the powerful. Make love our foundation. Let peace and justice flow like a river that never runs dry. Amen

*Written by Peter Nasir, Christian Aid Partner
General Secretary, East Jerusalem YMCA*

Sunday 10th May at 3pm at Whipsnade Church

All are welcome to 'In Loving Memory', a service for those who have been bereaved – with a chance to light a candle and remember those we love but see no longer.

Welcome to the United Benefice of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade

*Part of the North Chilterns Group of
Parishes*

**Sunday 26th April 2026
Fourth Sunday of Easter**

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

Services next week: 3rd May

Kensworth 10.30am – May Day
Holy Communion
followed by May Festival
Studham 10.30am – Family Service
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 26th April 2026
Fourth Sunday of Easter

The Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

A reading from Genesis

Genesis 7

The LORD said to Noah, 'Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground.' And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him. Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came on the earth. And Noah with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood. Of the clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah. And after seven days the waters of the flood came on the earth. In the six-hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth for forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons, entered the ark, they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing

that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind - every bird, every winged creature. They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in. The flood continued for forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters. The waters swelled so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered; the waters swelled above the mountains, covering them fifteen cubits deep. And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, domestic animals, wild animals, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all human beings; everything on dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, human beings and animals and creeping things and birds of the air; they were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those that were with him in the ark. And the waters swelled on the earth for one hundred and fifty days.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 2: 42-47

Many were baptized and were added to the community. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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 10: 1-10

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayer after Communion

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS:

How can we recognise the voice of Jesus? What things might you ask Jesus to fill your life with?

For parents and carers, ask your children: "How would you feel if you heard the voice of a good friend calling your name when you were playing in a busy playground?"