

This week we pray in love for:

Care of God's creation

- ♦ All those who campaign for environmental and world trade justice
- ♦ Those developing environmentally-friendly agricultural and horticultural practices
- ♦ Development agencies working with communities to foster sustainable farming
- ♦ Ecologists and eco-theologians
- ♦ Our benefice eco-church group

In our Diocesan Prayer Diary, we pray for the parish of All Saints, Hertford, in the Deanery of Hertford and Ware

July prayers for...

Kensworth

Common Road from the start to the Methodist Church including Wick Hill

Studham

Swannells Wood

Whipsnade

Bushey Close, Village Hall and Field; and Windy Sayles

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, Ann and Malcolm Weir, Wendy Kennedy, Chris Hazell, Catherine, Hilda, Mike, Karen and Rees; and those who have died recently, including Brenda Breeden, Clifford Bygrave and Jean Radford.

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: Christ our healer, beloved and remembered by women: speak to the grief which makes us forget, and the terror that makes us cling, and give us back our name; that we may greet you clearly, and proclaim your risen life. **Amen.**

Readings for next week: 1 Kings 3: 5-12;

Romans 8: 26-end; Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

• ***Dates for your diary***

- **Sunday 19th July, 2pm** – Interment of ashes, Whipsnade Church
- **Tuesday 21st July, 10.30am** – Funeral and burial of Clifford Bygrave, Studham Church
- **Wednesday 22nd July, 7.30pm** – Dunstable Deanery Synod, Priory Church, Dunstable
- **Friday 24th July, 12pm** – Interment of ashes, Studham Church
- **Saturday 25th July, 7.30pm** – Compline for the Feast of St. James, Kensworth Church
- **Monday 27th July, 2pm** – Funeral and burial of Jean Radford, Kensworth Church
- **Thursday 6th August, 2pm** – Funeral of Brenda Breeden, Kensworth Church

Foodbank requirements:

Long-life fruit juice; meat in sauce; rice puddings; instant mash; long-life milk; sweets or chocolate in packets; savoury snacks; carrier bags (in good clean condition please). No pasta please!

Welcome to the United Benefice of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade

*Part of the North Chilterns Group of
Parishes*

Sunday 19th July 2026

**Mary Magdalene / Seventh Sunday
after Trinity**

Kensworth	10.30am – A Service of Stillness and Reflection
Studham	10.30am – Holy Communion with Children's Church and renewal of vows
Whipsnade	6.00pm – Patronal Festival Evensong

Services next week: 26th July

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 find your time with us prayerful, inspiring and enjoyable.

Sunday 19th July 2026
Feast of St. Mary Magdalene

The Collect

Almighty God, whose Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of mind and body and called her to be a witness to his resurrection: forgive our sins and heal us by your grace, that we may serve you in the power of his risen life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever

A reading from the Song of Solomon

Song of Solomon 3: 1-4

Upon my bed at night I sought him whom my soul loves; I sought him, but found him not; I called him, but he gave no answer. 'I will rise now and go about the city, in the streets and in the squares; I will seek him whom my soul loves.' I sought him, but found him not. The sentinels found me, as they went about in the city. 'Have you seen him whom my soul loves?' Scarcely had I passed them, when I found him whom my soul loves. I held him, and would not let him go until I brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

A reading from St Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians

2 Corinthians 5: 14-17

The love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

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 20: 1-2, 11-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.'

'When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayer after Communion

God of life and love, whose risen Son called Mary Magdalene by name and sent her to tell of his resurrection to his apostles: in your mercy, help us, who have been united with him in this Eucharist, to proclaim the good news that he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS:

What does it mean to be a witness to the resurrection?

For parents and carers to ask children: "How do you tell people about God's love for us all?"