

### ***This week we pray in love for:***

#### ***The Church***

- ♦ The Diocese of St. Albans; Bishops Andrew, 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 Mike
- ♦ 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 All Saints, Croxley Green in the Deanery of Rickmansworth

#### ***September prayers for...***

##### ***Kensworth***

Church End, Spratts Lane and Hollicks Lane

##### ***Studham***

Valley Road and Valley Close

##### ***Whipsnade***

The Old School House to Chequers House and Chequers Cottages

***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, Ann and Malcolm Weir, Wendy Kennedy, Chris Hazell, Catherine, Hilda, Mike, Karen and Rees; and those who have died recently.***

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](mailto:revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com) before Thursday each week.

***A prayer for this week: God of justice, help us to receive your amazing grace and generosity, and to show that same grace and generosity to others in our lives. Amen.***

*Readings for next week:* Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-end; Philippians 2: 1-13; Matthew 21: 23-32

#### ***Dates for your diary***

- **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 3pm** – Vauxhall Male Voice Choir Concert, Studham Church
- **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 5-6pm** – ‘Good Book Club’, Whipsnade Church
- **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 10am** – Studham PCC, Pebbles, Oldhill Wood
- **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 10am-noon** – MacMillan Coffee Morning, Whipsnade Church – all welcome for a morning of cakes, tea and coffee and a raffle
- **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2-4pm** – ‘Climate and Creation’ event – see below
- **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 9am** – Studham School Harvest Service, Studham Church

#### **Harvest Festivals**

**Kensworth – Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am**, followed by an auction of fresh produce to raise money for charity, and a bring and share lunch

**Whipsnade – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 9am**

**Studham – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30am**, followed by a bring and share lunch

All Harvest gifts are welcome at all services – gifts will go to Dunstable Foodbank and the Salvation Army. Thank you to all who will be decorating our churches for Harvest.

#### **Foodbank requirements:**

Long-life fruit juice; meat in sauce; rice puddings; pasta sauce; long-life milk; tinned vegetables; custard; biscuits; tea bags (40 or 80) carrier bags (in good clean condition please). No pasta please!

All welcome to our ‘Climate and Creation’ event on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2-4pm, organised by our eco-church benefice group and hosted by Studham Church. QR code for signing up in all three churches and in the ‘Parish Link’.

# Welcome to the United Benefice of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade

*Part of the North Chilterns Group of Parishes*

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## **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2026 Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**

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|           |                                                 |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Kensworth | 10.30am – A Service of Stillness and Reflection |
| Studham   | 10.30am – Holy Communion with Children's Church |
| Whipsnade | 9.00am – Family Service                         |

## **Services next week: 27<sup>th</sup> September**

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|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Kensworth | <b>NO</b> 8.00am Holy Communion<br>10.30am – Harvest Festival |
| 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 to whoever gives you a service order. If you need a gluten-free wafer or Holy Communion brought to you in your seat, please let us know. The rector (Nicola) can be reached on (01582) 872223 or at [revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com](mailto: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 20<sup>th</sup> September 2026**  
**Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**

**The Collect**

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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 Jonah**

*Jonah 3: 10 – 4: 11*

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, 'O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the LORD said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush.<sup>7</sup> But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, 'It is better for me to die than to live.' But God said to Jonah, 'Is it

right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' Then the LORD said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

*This is the word of the Lord*

**All: Thanks be to God**

**A reading from St Paul's letter to the Philippians**

*Philippians 1: 21-30*

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well – since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

*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 20: 1-16*

For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS:**

*Who has been generous to you in your life? What does it feel like? Reflect on God's generous love for you.  
For parents and carers: ask your children, "What does it mean to be generous to people?"*