This week we pray in love for:
The life of the villages

- Our farming life
- The unemployed
- The parish councils
- The village clubs and societies
- SKAW Neighbourhood Scheme

In our Diocesan Prayer Diary, we pray for the parish of Knebworth in the Deanery of Stevenage

November prayers for…
Kensworth
Remembrance and those who have lost a loved one in the past year
Studham
Remembrance and those who have lost a loved one in the past year
Whipsnade
Remembrance and those who have lost a loved one in the past year

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 and Mike; 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 before Thursday each week.

A prayer for this week*: Christ, whose insistent call disturbs our settled lives: give us discernment to hear your word, grace to relinquish our tasks, and courage to follow empty-handed wherever you may lead; that the voice of your gospel may reach to the ends of the earth,* ***Amen.***

Readings for next week: Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24; Ephesians 1: 15-end; Matthew 25: 31-end

- ***Dates for your diary***
- **Tuesday 17th November, 12.30pm** – Dunstable Deanery Chapter
- **Tuesday 17th November, 3pm** – Kensworth School Collective Worship, Kensworth School
- **Wednesday 18th November, 8-8.30am** – 'Hope for Rural Churches' Zoom prayer meeting, ask Nicola for a link if you would like to come
- **Wednesday 18th November, 2.30pm** – 'The Alban Way', Kensworth School
- **Thursday 19th November** – Christmas Card making event, Kensworth Church Hall (please note children's event on 21st November postponed until the New Year)
- **Saturday 21st November, 5pm** – Farewell service for Bishop Richard of Bedford, St Albans Abbey
- **Saturday 21st November, 7.30pm** – Studham Church Quiz Night, Studham Village Hall
- **Sunday 22nd November, 5-6pm** – 'Good Book Club' meeting, Kensworth Church Hall
- **Thursday 26th November, 11am** – Whipsnade PCC, preceded by a Charities' meeting at 10.30am

Foodbank requirements for November:
Meat in sauce; long-life milk; tinned fruit; instant mashed potato; sweets and sweet treats; crackers; tea bags (40s/80s); toiletries (new and unused); carrier bags (in good, clean condition);
No pasta or rice please.

On this Safeguarding Sunday, please pray for all victims and survivors of any sort of abuse; and in our benefice please pray and give thanks for our three Parish Safeguarding Officers; Kathy at Kensworth, Meg at Studham and Mike at Whipsnade.

Welcome to the United Benefice of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade

Part of the North Chilterns Group of Parishes

Sunday 15th November 2026
Second Sunday before Advent/ Safeguarding Sunday

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: 22nd November

Kensworth	*8.00am – Holy Communion in Kensworth Church Hall*
	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 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. 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 15th November 2026
Second Sunday before Advent / Safeguarding Sunday

The Collect
Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen

A reading from Zephaniah
Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18
Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.
This is the word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

A reading from St Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians
1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11
Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.
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 25: 14-30
Jesus said to his disciples, 'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayer after Communion
Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. ***Amen.***

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS:
Which talents can you offer to Christ and to his church?
For parents and carers: ask your children: "What are you good at doing? Take a moment to thank God for all your talents."