

Prayer Diary

This week our prayer focus is on families and those who care for children. Each day we also pray for those in our own prayers who are unwell.

Sunday 7th December - The Second Sunday of Advent

- Our Bishops Graham, Jane & Ian.
- Our Rector, Revd. Joanna Haywood, our 'ministry team', churchwardens and PCC's that under Joanna's leadership and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Christ's Church in this benefice may grow in faith, service and witness.
- Let us remember before God our own parents and give thanks for all they have given us, their care and the gift of life itself. We remember those whom we see no longer.
- The residents of Frettenham Road and Patricia Avenue, Horstead.

Monday 8th December – The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

We praise God for the life of Mary, Mother of our Lord.

- Children who either have no relationship with one of their parents or whose relationship is a troubled one.
- The residents of Wymondham Close, Stratton Strawless.

Tuesday 9th December

- Grandparents and other family members who take on the role of caring for children.
- Those in Birbeck Way Frettenham.

Wednesday 10th December

- Child minders and those who work in children's day care facilities. We especially pray for better funding of this important service to working families.
- All in Church Lane, Hainford.

Thursday 11th December

- Those who are Foster Parents, for the gifts they need for this extraordinary work of care, both long term and short term.
- The residents of the St James' district in Coltishall.

Friday 12th December

- Those working in our Nursery School and early years education.
- All in Church Close and St Margaret's Close, Horstead.

Saturday 13th December – Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304. Samuel Johnson, *Moralist*, 1784. Ember Day

Lucy died during the Diocletian persecution, the empire's last, largest, and bloodiest official persecution of Christianity, for refusing to marry against her own sense of vocation. Dr Johnson is remembered for his immense contribution to the understanding of the English language. He also had strong views on morality.

- Our worship tomorrow in Hainford and Horstead and all involved in leading and facilitating our services.
- All in Cromer Road, Stratton Strawless.
- We remember again all parents. Those sharing in the care of their children, those that are single parents and those estranged from their children. For strength, wisdom, love and time for themselves!

THE COLTISHALL GROUP OF PARISHES

*Serving the communities of Coltishall, Frettenham
Hainford, Horstead and Stratton Strawless*



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7th December 2025

Second Sunday of Advent - Peace

Services Today

- 9.30am Holy Communion, Hainford
4.00pm Christingle, Coltishall

Monday 8th December

- 9.00am Morning Prayer, Horstead Church
1.00pm Collective Worship at Hainford Primary School

Tuesday 9th December

- 9.00am Morning Prayer, Hainford Church
1.00pm Safeguarding training at Horsford Church

Wednesday 10th December

- 9.00am Morning Prayer, Coltishall Church
10.00am Midweek Holy Communion, Coltishall Church
followed by coffee at the Red Lion Café
12.30pm Church room Christmas lunch
(book with Joan Milligan)

Thursday 11th December

- 9.00am Morning Prayer, Stratton Strawless Church
12.30pm Deanery chapter Christmas lunch

Friday 12th December

Rev'd Joanna's rest day

- 5.45pm Carols around the Tree with the Parish Council, Coltishall

Saturday 13th December

- 9.00am Morning Prayer, Frettenham Church
7.00pm HUGS Christmas Concert, Hainford Village Hall

Next Sunday

14th December – Third Sunday of Advent

- 9.30am Morning Worship, Hainford
11.00am Holy Communion, Horstead
2.00pm Baptism of Rory Heywood-Speed, Coltishall
6.00pm Carols at Mill House – all welcome to boost the choir! We'll be singing in the corridors to those who are room-bound after a short service in the conservatory.

Readings:

Isaiah 35.1-10, Matthew 11.2-11

We are now emailing out our **notice sheet and prayer diary**
Ask to go on the mailing list by letting Rev'd Joanna know

CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE BENEFICE

Rector: Rev'd Joanna Haywood

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Safeguarding Officer: Sheena MacDonald

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Collect

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as
judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.
Amen.

1st Reading – Isaiah 11.1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s
den.
⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.
¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the
peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling
shall be glorious.

2nd Reading – Romans 15.4-13

⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for
our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the
encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May
the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to
live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ
Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
The Gospel for Jews and Gentiles Alike
⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has
welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that
Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of
the truth of God in order that he might confirm the
promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the
Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,
‘Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name’;
¹⁰ and again he says,
‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’;
¹¹ and again,

‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him’;
¹² and again Isaiah says,
‘The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.’
¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in
believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of
the Holy Spirit.

Gospel – Matthew 3.1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of
Judea, proclaiming, ² ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has
come near.’ ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah
spoke when he said,
‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.”’
⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt
around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild
honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were
going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶ and
they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing
their sins.
⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming
for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who
warned you to flee from the wrath to come?’ ⁸ Bear fruit
worthy of repentance. ⁹ Do not presume to say to
yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell
you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to
Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the
trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is
cut down and thrown into the fire.
¹¹ ‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is
more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to
carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit
and fire. ¹² His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will
clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the
granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

Post Communion prayer

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Our publicity for our **Christmas services** is now available.
Please do pick up some postcards and deliver to you
neighbours – and a bit further afield if you can! We’ve got
lots and it would be good if most of the houses in our
villages could get one through the front door. It’s a
wonderful time of the year to invite people – and we’ve a
good range of accessible Christmas services for people to
choose from which will be welcoming and accessible to all.
It’s at this time of the year that people are likely to say
‘yes’ to an invitation!