

Prayer Diary

As we approach the beginning of a new year and the end of the holiday our prayer focus this week is our local schools and places of learning. We also pray daily for those who are ill and for whom we have concern.

Sunday 28th December - *Holy Innocents*

- 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.
- Coltishall Primary School, for children and staff.
- The residents of Chapel Lane Coltishall

Monday 29th December – *Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1170* Thomas died because he 'spoke truth to power'. We remember our Church Leaders today that they may have the courage to do the same.

- Frettenham Primary School, for children and staff.
- The residents of Glebe Way and All Saints Close, Horstead

Tuesday 30th December

- Hainford Primary School, for children and staff.
- Those in Shorthorn Road, Stratton Strawless
- Those unwell and all in our own prayers.

Wednesday 31st December - *John Wycliffe, Reformer 1384*

Wycliffe is known for his translation of the Bible into English but as the Printing Press had not yet been invented, the establishment found it much easier to suppress its circulation. He was an influence upon Jan Huss in what is now the Czech Republic/Czechia and subsequent reformers.

- Coltishall Pre-School and all early learning opportunities used by local families. For children and staff.
- All in Mill Road Frettenham

Thursday 1st January – *The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus*

- Broadland High School, students and staff.
- The residents of Waterloo Road, Hainford

Friday 2nd January – *Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianus, Bishops, Teachers of the Faith, 379 & 389. Seraphim, Monk of Sarov, Spiritual Guide, 1833. Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, Bishop in South India, Evangelist, 1945.* Today we

commemorate two early church fathers, a Russian Saint and an Indian Bishop. Azariah was the only native Bishop in the Anglican Church at the time, an evangelist amongst the Tamil people, a contemporary of Ghandi and ecumenist sowing the seeds of what later would become the Church of South India.

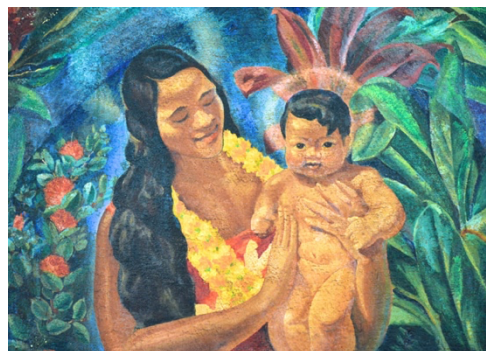
- All sixth forms and tertiary education used by local young people. For students and staff.
- All in Kings Road and College Close, Coltishall

Saturday 3rd January

- Our worship tomorrow in Hainford and All Age Service in Coltishall and all involved in leading and facilitating our services.
- The University of East Anglia, Norwich University of the Arts, City College Norwich, and all the places of Higher Education where local people study. We pray for students and staff.
- All in Norwich Road, Horstead

THE COLTISHALL GROUP OF PARISHES

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



Madonna and Child. Reredos, Holy Innocents' Church, Maui, by DeLos Blackmar, destroyed in wildfires 2023

28th December 2025

First Sunday of Christmas/Holy Innocents

Services Today

10.00am Benefice Holy Communion, Hainford

There will be no morning prayer or midweek Holy Communion this week as Rev'd Joanna is away
Midweek Holy Communion and Community Lunch return on Wednesday, 7th January

Saturday, 3rd January

9.00 Morning Prayer, Frettenham church

Next Sunday

4th January – Epiphany

9.30am Holy Communion, Hainford
10.00am All Age Worship for Epiphany

Readings:

Isaiah 60.1-6, Matthew 2.1-12

Rev'd Joanna will be away from 26th December until 2nd January inclusive. Please leave a voicemail or send an email, and she'll get back to you as soon as possible.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE BENEFICE

Rector: Rev'd Joanna Haywood

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Collect

God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

1st Reading – Jeremiah 31.15-17

¹⁵ Thus says the Lord:

A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children;
she refuses to be comforted for her children,
because they are no more.

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord:

Keep your voice from weeping,
and your eyes from tears;
for there is a reward for your work,
says the Lord:
they shall come back from the land of the enemy;

¹⁷ there is hope for your future,

says the Lord:

your children shall come back to their own country.

2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 1.26-29

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no one⁴⁴ might boast in the presence of God.

Gospel – Matthew 2.13-18

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ 'A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

Post Communion prayer

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an
earthly home:
help your Church to live as one family,
united in love and obedience,
and bring us all at last to our home in heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Advance notice for 2026!

We will be having an 'Away Day' as a benefice on **Saturday, 24th January, 10am-3pm** at the St Lawrence Arts Centre in South Walsham. We will think about how we can grow God's mission and ministry in our benefice as we consider what he is already doing here. Come along and help us to work out the best way forward. All are welcome, whether you hold a 'role' in the church or not. We are all part of Christ's body here in this part of the world, and we'd like to hear from all of you. There is no cost involved. Lifts available. Please put this in your diary. Any questions? Ask Rev'd Joanna.... Full details after Christmas.