

Prayer Diary

This week's theme is families and those who care for children. We also pray each day for those who are unwell and for all in our own prayers.

Sunday 4th May - The Fifth Sunday of Easter

- Our Bishops Graham, Jane and 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 for whom we see no longer.
- The residents of Frettenham Road and Patricia Avenue, Horstead.

Monday 4th May - English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era.

We remember those who died for their faith in the turmoil of the reformation (both Roman Catholic and Protestant) but through whom the sharing of the Faith was refreshed and enlivened.

- 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 5th May

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

Wednesday 6th May

- 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 7th May

- 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 8th May – Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer, c1417

We thank God for our own local 'saint' who was the first woman writer in the English language who continues to inspire many today in their journey of faith.

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

Saturday 9th May

- Our worship tomorrow in Hainford and Horstead and all involved in leading and facilitating our services.
- All in Cromer Road, Stratton Strawless.
- 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 with Gt Hautbois, Frettenham, Hainford, Horstead and Stratton Strawless



3rd May 2025

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Services Today

9.30am Holy Communion, Hainford church,
10.00am All Age Worship – Coltishall church

Monday 4th May

Bank Holiday – no Morning Prayer

Tuesday 5th May

9.00am Morning Prayer, Hainford Church

Wednesday 6th May

9.00am Morning Prayer, Coltishall Church
10.00am Midweek Holy Communion, Coltishall Church
12.30pm Church room lunch (book with Joan Milligan)

Thursday 7th May

9.00am Morning Prayer, Stratton Strawless Church
2.00pm Funeral of Sally Jarratt, St Faith's Crematorium

Friday 8th May

Rev'd Joanna's Rest Day

Saturday 9th May

9.00am Morning Prayer, Frettenham Church
10.15am Footprints Walking Group walking St Benet's Abbey followed by lunch in Ludham, details from Sheena

Next Sunday

10th May 2026 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.30am Morning Worship – Hainford church
11.00am Holy Communion – Horstead church

Readings: Acts 7.55-end, John 14.1-14

The APCM has been postponed due to late accepting of the accounts for some PCCs. Could you please put the new date of Thursday, 21st May in your diaries. 7pm at the Church Room in Coltishall. All welcome.

The annual report and accounts will be available 2 weeks prior to that meeting and will be circulated to all on the mailing list with hard copies available to look at in our churches.

Would you like to become a member of the PCC or a Deanery Synod Rep for your church? The please talk to Rev'd Joanna.... or any member of the current PCCs

CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE BENEFICE

Rector: Rev'd Joanna Haywood

Tel: 07733 325905, rector.coltgroup@gmail.com

Safeguarding Officer: Sheena MacRonald

Tel: 07763 145611, smacronald@btinternet.com

Collect

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

1st Reading: Acts 7.55-end

⁵⁵Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’ ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he died.

Gospel reading: John 14.1-14

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.’⁵Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ ⁶Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

⁸ Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ ⁹Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”?’¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.’

Post Communion prayer

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Dates for your diary

**Sunday: 4pm 10th May Rogation Sunday
Service of Blessing for the growing crops
Frettenham Church**

**Thursday: 7pm 14th May Ascension Day
Service of Holy Communion
Horstead Church**

**Thursday: 7pm 21st May APCM
Coltishall Church Room, Rectory Road, Coltishall**

**Saturday: 10.30am 23rd May
Pilgrimage from Horstead to Coltishall**
*Reflecting and praying for our parishes and communities as we walk from Horstead to Coltishall, via St Theobalds, Great Hautbois, with shortcuts for the less mobile. Refreshment stop midway, with lunch at the Red Lion afterwards. Wheelchair/ buggy friendly (with some adaptation)
Please speak to Rev’d Joanna for full details and for booking of refreshment stops!*

**Sunday: 10am 31st May
Benefice Holy Communion
Stratton Strawless Church**

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Sarah Smith, Treasurer and faithful member of All Saints’, Hainford died on Sunday 19th April. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends at this sad time.

Sarah’s funeral will take place at Hainford Church at 12 noon on Thursday, 14th May 2026, followed by refreshments at the St Faith Centre. All welcome. Full details to follow.