



GRAPEVINE **Conversion of Paul** **25th Jan 2026**

Prayer for the Day *by Revd Canon David White*

Grant us Lord, grace to follow wheresoever you go.
 In little daily duties to which you call us,
 bow down our wills to simple obedience,
 patience, strict truthfulness of word and manner, humility and kindness.
 In great acts of duty, if you should call us to them,
 uplift us to self-sacrifice and heroic courage,
 that in all things both small and great
 we may be imitators of your dear Son,
 even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I was speaking on the telephone recently with a friend of mine and I asked if he had had a good Christmas. He said that he and his family had very much enjoyed themselves and had a lovely time. Their family had all gathered at their house and then at the new year they'd stayed with friends but, he added, he was glad to get 'back to normal now'. I thought of him and of our conversation as I have been watching the news on successive nights recently and wondering, 'what is normal'? Nothing in our national and political life nor in our international relations seems normal any more – and I'm not sure any longer who, in public life, I can trust to tell the truth.

This prayer by Christina Rossetti seems to be an antidote to all that's happening at this time. It reminds us that whatever we do in life there are some important Christian values to adhere to – "strict truthfulness of word and manner, humility and kindness...self-sacrifice and heroic courage". Responding to all that's taking place in the world and society by saying this prayer and then living out the values it presents is the best normality that we can offer. It is not a denial of what is happening but rather an act of resistance. It's an attempt to reclaim our integrity and agency as followers of Jesus.

SERVICES & OPEN CHURCHES FOR THIS WEEK

Sun. 25 th	10.00am	Holy Communion	Collingham St John the Baptist
	10.00am	Morning Worship	Langford
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Harby
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Clifton
	5.00pm	Evening Prayer	Winthorpe
	10am-noon	Open Church	Collingham St John the Baptist
	10am-4pm	Open Churches	Besthorpe and Gorton
Tues. 27 th	10.00am	Pause for Thought	Collingham All Saints
Thurs. 29 th	1.30-3.30pm	Open Church	Winthorpe
Sat. 31 st	10am-4pm	Open Churches	Besthorpe and Gorton

Open Churches: Holme and Langford churches are open every day, 10am to 4pm.
 Collingham All Saints is open every day, whenever the "Church Open" sign is displayed.

NOTICES

Please note: St Helen's Church, Thorney will not be open on Sundays for quiet prayer for a while as work is underway to install heating!

The next Worship Leaders meeting will be on Monday 26th January, starting at 7pm at South Scarle.

LINKS WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: There will be a special meeting for anyone who is interested in developing Christian links with children, young people and their families, to be held at South Scarle Church and Community Centre on MONDAY 2ND FEBRUARY at 3.30pm until 5pm at the latest. We will be supported by Ruth Lee, our Diocesan Youth Development Leader and Richard Kellett, our Associate Archdeacon. Refreshments will be available from 3.15pm and we will close in prayer at about 4.45pm. We look forward to seeing you.

Safeguarding: Val Watson and Sally Lee are our Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs). If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact either of them – see Contacts below. More information about safeguarding can be found on our website, www.easttrentchurches.org.uk.

Churches Together in Collingham are holding two regular house groups in the village to share a time of fellowship, prayer and discussion every alternate week. Everyone is welcome – if you're interested and would like more information, please ring Duncan Smith on 07394 325675.

For information on the **Newark Food Bank** and the **Collingham Area Pantry** please see the [Community Action](#) page on our website (under 'About Us' on the menu).

NEXT SUNDAY 1st February – Presentation of Christ (Candlemas)

10.00am	Holy Communion	Clifton
10.00am	Joyful Noise	Collingham All Saints
5.00pm	Evening Prayer	South Scarle
10am-4pm	Open Churches	Besthorpe and Girton

Readings for next Sunday: Malachi 3.1-5; Psalm 24; Hebrews 2.14-end; Luke 2.22-40.

PRAYER

Please pray for:

- ❖ Lauryn & Aaron as they prepare for their wedding at Clifton on Saturday 31st January.
- ❖ Peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, Russia and all other countries where there is conflict.
- ❖ A workable agreement between Europe and the United States regarding Greenland.
- ❖ All those around the world suffering the effects of extreme weather.
- ❖ Those who are homeless, lonely, ill or grieving.
- ❖ All those who need God's help to find their way.
- ❖ All those who are ill or waiting for hospital treatment.
- ❖ All those who have recently died – Elisabeth Thursby, Hazel Wilson, Maureen Coupland, Mary Hill.
- ❖ In our year's mind – Paul Moore, Michael Kneebone, John Clayton, Margaret Baker, Kathleen Burton, Nan Smith.

CONTACTS

PASTORAL ENQUIRIES ~ Please contact your church warden(s).

SAFEGUARDING – Val Watson (07815 644236) or Sally Lee (01522 778691).

ALL OTHER ENQUIRIES, INCLUDING WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS, AND ITEMS FOR GRAPEVINE ~

Please contact the East Trent Group Administrator, Mrs Christine Hasman:

Telephone: 01636 679105

email: admin@easttrentchurches.org.uk

GRAPEVINE ONLINE:

<http://www.easttrentchurches.org.uk/community/east-trent-churches-7910/grapevine>