



GRAPEVINE 1st Sunday of Advent 30th Nov 2025

Prayer for the Day *by Revd Canon David White*

This prayer is by the American Old Testament scholar and theologian, Walter Brueggemann. Brueggemann crafts his prayers carefully and one of his colleagues has written that they offer, “hope to a church whose truth-telling voice has often been tamed and muted”.

The season of Advent, which starts today, is often described as a time to prepare for

Christmas, but it is so much more. It is a complicated season when the church looks forward to celebrating Christ’s first coming as a baby at Bethlehem - which we know about and are clear as to what happened, by also looking forward to his second coming - which is shrouded in mystery and uncertainty. And then there are the other Advent themes and tropes such as darkness and light, hope, waiting, longing, care for the poor, all vying for our attention. This prayer, with its inherent contradictions and sometimes unusual syntax catches our mood and feelings so that ultimately all we can do is offer everything, including ourselves to God, who will, we hope, ‘in any case...make all things new’.

In our secret yearnings we wait for your coming,
 and in our grinding despair we doubt that you will.
 And in this privileged place
 we are surrounded by witnesses who yearn more than do we
 and by those who despair more deeply than do we.
 Look upon your church and its ministers
 in this season of hope which runs so quickly to fatigue
 and this season of yearning which becomes so easily quarrelsome.
 Give us the grace and impatience
 to wait for your coming to the bottom of our toes,
 to the edges of our fingertips.
 We do not want our several worlds to end.
 Come in your power and come in your weakness
 in any case and make all things new. Amen.

SERVICES & OPEN CHURCHES FOR THIS WEEK

Sun. 30 th	10.30am	Morning Worship	Thorney (<i>check with church warden</i>)
	10.45am	United Holy Communion	Collingham All Saints
	3.00pm	Advent Carol Service	Girton
Tues. 2 nd	10am-4pm	Open Churches	Besthorpe and Girton
	10.00am	Pause for Thought	Collingham St John the Baptist
	7.00pm	Light Up A Life Service	Collingham St John the Baptist
Thurs. 4 th	10am-noon	Open Church	Collingham St John the Baptist
	1.30-3.30pm	Open Church	Winthorpe
	2.00pm	Advent Course	Collingham Methodist Church Foyer
Sat. 6 th	10am-4pm	Open Churches	Besthorpe and Girton

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!

Our Advent Carol Service will be at Girtton on Sunday 30th November at 3pm – come and welcome the season through music and readings, with refreshments afterwards. All welcome!

Advent Course: Come and join an ecumenical preparation for Christmas on the themes of Love, Hope and Joy, in the foyer of the Methodist Church on Tuesdays from 2 - 3pm starting 2nd December and ending 16th December. All welcome!

Girtton's next Film Night is on Friday 5th December, in the Village Hall, at 7pm. We will be showing the latest Mission Impossible film. Everyone is very welcome to join us, no tickets are required, but donations will be gratefully received.

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 7th November – 2nd of Advent

10.00am	Holy Communion	Harby
10.00am	Joyful Noise – Christingle	Collingham All Saints
4.00pm	Carols Around The Organ	Langford
10am-4pm	Open Churches	Besthorpe and Girtton

Readings for next Sunday: Isaiah 11.1-10; Psalm 72.1-7,18-19; Romans 15.4-13; Matthew 3.1-12.

PRAYER

Please pray for:

- ❖ ADVENT SUNDAY – Today we begin a new Church Year. We give thanks for all that has been and what shall be. Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Jesus the Lord. Amen.
- ❖ Peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, Russia and all other countries where there is conflict.
- ❖ Brian Wright, his son Charles, and all the family at this very difficult and distressing time.
- ❖ All others known to us who have recently died - Ronald Bennett.
- ❖ All those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.
- ❖ In our year's mind – Maureen Dobson, Ralph White, Barbara Norris, Joyce Kanikula, Peter Dawson, Connie Noble, Archibald Carmichael, Shirley Sugden, Eileen Cherry-Downes, Stan Brewer.

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>