



## GRAPEVINE

### The Holy Innocents

28<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025

#### Prayer for the Day

*by Revd Canon David White*

O God, the Spirit of truth,  
help us to be truthful with one another.

O God, the Spirit of gentleness,  
help us to be gentle with one another.

O God, who knows what is in our hearts  
more clearly than we do ourselves,  
help us to hear one another.

O God, lead us in the way of truth and love. Amen.

This prayer by Richard Harries, a former Bishop of Oxford, is relevant for today when the reading from St Matthew's Gospel tells of how Joseph is warned in a dream that King Herod is about to launch a murderous assault on all very young children in Judea in an attempt to eliminate the perceived rivalry of Jesus to his power. Jesus, Mary and Joseph are therefore compelled to escape to Egypt until the threat that Herod poses is past. So today, the focus of our attention turns to this fragile family unit that is Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

There is often a sense of nostalgia, romance and sentimentalism about the birth of Jesus. This can be heard in many Christmas Carols and seen in Christmas cards. At the same time, it is difficult for us to know what life was like for this family and the gospels tell us so little. Like many families they will have had their routines, customs, favourite pastimes and we have to be careful about "bubble-wrapping" them. We need to know that they experienced not only joy and happiness in being together as a family, but also the struggles as well that families have always had to live through.

This prayer asks God to help us in the important ways of truthfulness, gentleness and deep listening – all of which are at the heart of family life.

#### SERVICES & OPEN CHURCHES FOR THIS WEEK

Sun. 28 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Holy Communion	Collingham St John the Baptist
	10.00am	Morning Worship	Langford
	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 Girton
Tues. 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Pause for Thought	Collingham All Saints
Sat. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	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!

**Home for Christmas: Christmas Parable 2025** – you can watch Bishop Paul's video message on our East Trent Churches website news page, or on the Diocesan website [here](#).

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

**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](http://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 4<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany**

10.00am	Holy Communion	Clifton
10.00am	Joyful Noise	Collingham All Saints
10am-4pm	Open Churches	Besthorpe and Girton

**Readings for next Sunday:** Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72.1-15; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12.

## PRAYER

Please pray for:

- ❖ Peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, Russia and all other countries where there is conflict.
- ❖ The Holy Innocents: This sombre commemoration of the death of the young is a sharp counterpoint to the celebration of new birth. Please pray today for those who are victims of aggression.
- ❖ Those who are homeless, lonely, ill or grieving.
- ❖ In our year's mind – Jenny Chapman, Sheila Maby, Bob Benbow, Margaret Stewart, Alan Hill, Trevor Weavor, Anita Locke, Ted Broomfield, John Mitchell, Joy Ward, Douglas Stainer, Kenneth Wells.

**A New Year's Prayer** - Dear God, thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day. We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that you will guide our decisions. We ask that you will open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that you would help us release our grip on the things to which you've said 'no,' 'not yet,' or 'wait'. We ask all this in your name. Amen.

## 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](mailto:admin@easttrentchurches.org.uk)

## **GRAPEVINE ONLINE:**

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