

Bolingbroke Deanery Team Parishes

Faithful, Confident, Joyful

21st November 2021

Sunday before Advent

CHRIST THE KING

1.



[A Service of Morning Prayer for the Feast of Christ the King](#)

21/11/2021

Worship from St Margaret's Lee, London. The service is led by Rev Canon Tim Goode and Rev

Daniel Walker preaches.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

Prayer in our own homes See below

The Feast of Christ the King (W)

9.30am Spilsby Eucharist - (PC)

11.15am Hundleby Eucharist + PCC (PC) Banns

3.00pm Firsby Evening Prayer (PC)

Services in the Marden Hill Cluster

9.30am East Keal Eucharist (JC) Banns

3rd - Christopher Anthony Warman & Tessa Janine Hilton both of East Kirkby
for 18th Dec 2021

Services in the Stickney Cluster

11.15am Stickney Morning Worship (FJ)

Services in the Partney Cluster

9.30am Aswardby Morning Prayer (PMcL)

11.15am Partney Family Service (TMcL)

Services in the South Ormsby Cluster

Diocese

3.45pm Cathedral - Farewell Service for Bp Christopher

All Welcome

Almighty God, source of our hope and all good things; you call us in love to share in the work of creation in making all things new. Bless our diocese: may we be faithful in our worship; confident in our discipleship; and joyful in our service; that, through us, the world may catch a glimpse of the love you have for each one of us, made known to us in your son, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Our Web Site

<http://lincoln.ourchurchweb.org.uk/spilsby/index.php>

Bolingbroke Team Churches YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqTDWzVL2jxeB6ESF-aP9Nw?view_as=subscriber

Monday Cecilia 22 November Martyr at Rome, c.230

12.00noon Franklin Hall - Lunch Club re starts

Tuesday Clement 23 November Bishop of Rome, Martyr, c.100

2.00pm New Leake Bible Study

Wednesday

10.30am Spilsby Eucharist

11.00am Stickford PCC

4.00pm Team Meeting

Thursday Catherine of Alexandria 25 November Martyr, 4th century
& Isaac Watts 25 November Hymn Writer, 1748

Friday

10am to 12noon Franklin Hall Spilsby Good Neighbour Coffee

Morning

Saturday

11.00am to 2.00pm St Helen East Keal Christmas Fayre

Morning

2.00pm to 4pm All Saints Great Steeping Bazaar

1.00pm to 6.00pm Spilsby Town Centre Christmas Market

with craft stalls and all manner of lovely things for Christmas...

Next Sunday – ADVENT SUNDAY (P)

9.30am Spilsby Eucharist - (JC)

11.15am Little Steeping Eucharist (PC) Banns

3.00pm Raithby Chapel Advent Carols

Services in the Marden Hill Cluster

9.30am East Keal Eucharist (PC) Banns

1.00pm West Keal Baptism – Willow Aurora Ruby Pitts

1.15pm Toynton Baptism – Grayson Matthew Pinner

- 3.00pm East Kirkby (Afternoon Worship) (FJ)
Services in the Stickney Cluster
- 11.15am Stickford Morning Worship (FJ)
Services in the Partney Cluster
- 11.15am Sausthorpe Morning Prayer (PMcL)
- 11.15am Langton Holy Communion (TMcL)
Services in the South Ormsby Cluster
- 9.30pm Harrington – Holy Communion (TMcL)

Private Prayer in the Following Churches:

St James Spilsby	Daily	08.00 to 16.00
St Mary Hundley	Daily	10.00 to 14.00
St Helen East Keal	Daily	10.00 to 15.00
St Helen's West Keal	Saturday and Sunday	10.00 to 16.00
St Nicholas Partney	Thursdays	11.30 to 12.30
St Mary Tetford	Wednesdays	11.30 to 12.30
St Luke Stickney	Daily	10.00 to 16.00
St Helen Stickford	Daily	10.00 to 16.00

Spilsby Daily 8am Morning Prayer & at Noon

God of love, turn our hearts to Your ways and give us peace.

Amen

The sick at home or in hospital,

Nigel Worth, Kathleen, Molly, Veronica, Dorothy, Maggie J. Betty Brawn, Tristan, Michael P, Joan T. Mark, Jossie Lee, June, Hilary, Michael, Harriet, Rose L., Abby, Sheila Janes, Fleur, Mary, Jeff Mason, Rosie, Bob, (Baby) Chloe Lear, Lawrence, Ann Howman, John Prince, Sylvia Bonsey, Anthea B, Jo & John, Bessie Reddin, Mary Julyan, Norman Huntingford, Kerry Brown.

The Departed: Margaret Hudson, Jeffrey Bogg, Rita Corke, Pauline Towler.

Anniversary: Kit Millard, Doris Broughton-Bell, Harry Curwen, Margaret Wright, Ada Shelly, Doris Preston, Betty Johnson, Irene Elkington, Joan Noakes, Alan Hargreaves, Frank Baumber, Frank Stainton, Kathleen Johnson, Dixey Dean, Roland Perkins, Gerald Rose, Hilda Toynton, Carl Rhodes, John Atkinson, Robert Hodgson, Victor Herring, Toni Cockayne, Bronwen Woods, Rhoda Sleaford, Laura Parish, Charles Bradley, Elaine Thompson, Jane Fox-Robinson, Sheila Mackie, Baby Baxter, John Carpenter, Rosemary Adkins, Peter Woods, Janice Warner, Harry Tempest, Shawn Leary, Edward Ellis, Maureen Kemp Betty Cook, Ivy George, Michael Wright, Maurice Kemp, Rose Rose, Marjory Lettice, Harold "Pixie" Morris,

Joan Ramsden, Roy Blackburn. George Smith, Joseph Gough, Eileen Ely, Vanessa Borrell, Maureen Everson, Sidney Ashley, Ann Paveley, Geoff West, Frank Richardson, Bernard Holmes, Dennis Armstrong. Howard Lansom, Phyllis Blackburn, David Price, Alice Snow, Sadie Kennet, Kenneth Frost, Denise Nelson. Elsie Hezel, George Whiting, Syd Scarborough, Margaret Everard, Sandra Roberts, Jean Tonry, Joan Abbey, Elsie Shaw, Grace Pettit, Alec Cark, Marjorie Ely.

Time to Change Together – Please pray for the Vocational Conversations taking place this month (on days marked ‘★’) and particularly for the facilitators involved. (There are possibly conversations on other days but the days marked are in the formal programme.)

<p>Sunday 21st <i>Christ the King</i> Musicians and those in the Arts</p>	<p>Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” <i>John 18: 37</i></p> <p><i>The Church of Bangladesh</i></p>
<p>Monday 22nd ★ Cecilia, Martyr at Rome, c.230 Nature Conservation</p>	<p>Please pray for The Time to Change Together team responsible for seeing through the recommendations of the RSC Report.</p> <p>Mission & Ministry Committee</p> <p><i>The Diocese of Ibadan North – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ibadan Province)</i></p>
<p>Tuesday 23rd ★ Clement, Bishop of Rome, Martyr, c.100 Police and Fire Services</p>	<p>The Deanery of Corringham – Rural Dean: Revd Philip Wain, Lay Chair: Pray for the Deanery as it works through the implications of Time to Change Together</p> <p><i>The Diocese of Ibadan South – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ibadan Province)</i></p>
<p>Wednesday 24th Press/media</p>	<p>Church Schools in the Deanery of Corringham Blyton Cum Laughton, Corringham, Gainsborough Parish, Gainsborough St George’s, Lea Frances Olive Anderson, Newton-on-Trent, Saxilby.</p> <p><i>The Diocese of Ibadan – The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (Western Equatoria Province)</i></p>
<p>Thursday 25th Catherine of Alexandria, Martyr, 4th century Isaac Watts, Hymn Writer, 1748 Prisons</p>	<p>Gainsborough and Morton – Revd Steve Johnson. Please pray for the leadership team as we seek to grow particularly in the “Uphill” area of Gainsborough following the re-opening of St George’s Church after 13 years.</p> <p><i>The Diocese of Idah – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Lokoja Province)</i></p>
<p>Friday 26th ★</p>	<p>The Lea Group – Revd Phillip Wain Please pray for our congregations as we witness in our local communities.</p>

Social Services	<i>The Diocese of Idaho – The Episcopal Church (VIII (8) Province)</i>
Saturday 27 th Tourism	The Saxilby Group – In Vacancy Please pray for all Congregations in our Group, the Churchwardens, retired clergy and members of our ministry teams as we learn to change together. Pray too for anyone with Covid in the community. <i>The Diocese of Ideato – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Owerri Province)</i>
Sunday 28 th Advent Sunday Universities and Colleges	Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. <i>Luke 21: 33</i> <i>Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil</i>

Bolingbroke Team Ministry

Christ the King - Morning Worship



We come today to acknowledge Christ as King. His throne is a cross, and he reigns from high heaven. Beauty and holiness are the marks of his kingdom. He is the face of God revealed in human form. Let us keep our eyes fixed on him: King Jesus – the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Prayer of Approach

God of gods and King of kings, be with us as we seek to know more of your truth. Speak to us by your Word and your Spirit. Help us to see Jesus, and to hear his voice – not just for today, but for all days, and for the glory of your kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Hymn

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified;
no angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends their burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity..

Words: Matthew Bridges

Invitation to Confession

Jesus is our high priest, tempted like us, yet without sin. He lives for ever in heaven to intercede for us. Through him we approach the throne of grace with confidence and confess our sins.

A prayer of confession

O Lord our mighty God,
we have heard but not always listened to you:
with sorrow and sadness, we confess our sin.
We have seen need and closed our eyes to it:
with sorrow and sadness, we confess our sin.
We have closed our ears to cries for help:
with sorrow and sadness, we confess our sin.
We have known your truth and yet followed lies and falsehoods:
with sorrow and sadness, we confess our sin. Amen.

Assurance of sins forgiven

The Lord God says: be assured your sins are forgiven, your slate is wiped clean. Listen to the word of God and know its truth. Amen.

A Reading from Revelation 1: 4b - 8.

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Hymn

Jesus is the name we honour; Jesus is the name we praise.
Majestic Name above all other names,
The highest heaven and earth proclaim that Jesus is our God.

*We will glorify, we will lift Him high,
We will give Him honour and praise. (repeat)*

Jesus is the name we worship; Jesus is the name we trust.
He is the King above all other kings,
Let all creation stand and sing that Jesus is our God.

Jesus is the Father's splendour; Jesus is the Father's joy.
He will return to reign in majesty,
And every eye at last shall see that Jesus is our God.

Words: Steve Garrett

Reading from the Gospel of John 18: 33 - 37

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from

here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'

Homily from the Diocesan Website

The celebration of Christ the King in the church's calendar is a relatively new phenomenon. It was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 as a response to the growing brutality of fascism in Italy following the first World War. Pope Pius wanted to emphasise the nonviolent kingship and rule of Christ the King, as the true Prince of Peace. And since 1970, it has been kept on the last Sunday of the Church year.

The kingship of Jesus as opposed to the type of kingship that Pilate knew of in Jerusalem was the focus of the dialogue that we hear in our gospel reading. Pilate's view of kingship, and that of most of the people in that part of the world, was one of power and strength shown by the occupying forces of the Romans and the means by which they kept control of the people.

Intimidation, violence and corruption were part of everyday life and accepted by most. Anyone else who claimed kingship was branded a revolutionary, in direct opposition to the status quo and jailed or killed.

However, Pilate is not sure of this man in front of him. He does not seem to be a revolutionary. He is not sure why the chief priests are so opposed to him. So, he asks him the question, twice, "Are you the King of the Jews?" "So, you are a King?"

Jesus doesn't answer the question directly, but tries to explain to Pilate, the nature of his Kingdom, his Kingship; that he is not a political threat to the status quo because his Kingdom is different from the kingdoms of the world. His kingdom was not won through violence or occupation, through power, it was given to him by his Father. The prophetic vision that Daniel received showed the son of man coming before the throne of God, the Ancient of Days, where he was given all authority, glory and a kingdom where all peoples, all nations would serve him. And that kingdom would be eternal and never be destroyed.

Jesus goes on to say that those people who are of the truth, who have recognised Jesus as the Son of God, would hear his voice. Pilate obviously does not hear his voice. He succumbs to the rule of the world, and hands Jesus over to be crucified.

I wonder how our experience of kingship affects our view of Jesus Christ, as our King? Queen Elizabeth has reigned, for many of us, our lifetimes. Her kingship has been characterised in the main by duty and service to our country, in countless ways. There is a well-known story about Queen Elizabeth, that when she was a young girl, wandering around one of the royal

estates, a stranger asked her, “Who are you?” “Oh, I’m no one”, she replied “but my father is the King”.

Can we say the same about our heavenly father, that He is King of our lives? What does it mean to us that God in Jesus Christ is our King?

Jesus showed through his life and preaching, in his care and compassion for the outcasts, the lost, the poor and ill - and in his challenges to corruption in religion and society - that his kingship was very different to the kings of the world. His kingship was and is, characterised by service. And as we pray regularly, “your kingdom come on earth, as in heaven”, by following Jesus, listening to his voice, we find ourselves serving others, becoming the answer to our prayer that the whole of creation will end up worshipping our Lord. Our lives may be difficult, unrelenting and uncertain at times, however with Christ as our King, we are part of a kingdom which is everlasting and indestructible. As the passage from Revelation tells us, “I am the alpha and the omega..”, the beginning and the end.

As disciples of King Jesus, we are called to hear his voice, to hear his truth, when reading the Scriptures, when praying and in our daily conversations with each other. In our ordinary lives, we serve King Jesus, through following his example in our care and compassion for others, in our going the extra mile and, with the result of COP26 in our news, in our choices that we make about how to protect God’s creation, our beautiful planet.

The reign of King Jesus is everlasting, His kingdom is here now and still to come. His kingship is one of love and mercy to every single one of us, no matter how unworthy we feel.

So, if today we sing “O worship the King, All glorious above; O gratefully sing His power and his love”, let us respond to Christ our King, by living lives of thankfulness and of service. To say Christ is King in our lives, means a commitment to love and service daily as we live out our lives in this world.

Conversation Questions

1. With the climate change emergency that our world is in, can we find hope for our world in these scripture readings?
2. How, in our communities, in our actions, can we better serve King Jesus?
3. How can we hear the voice of Jesus in our daily lives?
4. Is there anything else from the passage that speaks to you not already discussed? What is it?
5. What will you do this week in your Monday-to-Saturday ministry in response to what you have heard today? #everydayfaith

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn

All my days I will sing this song of gladness,
Give my praise to the Fountain of delights;
For in my helplessness You heard my cry,
And waves of mercy poured down on my life.

I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer,
I will sing of the blood that never fails;
Of sins forgiven, of conscience cleansed,
Of death defeated and life without end.

*Beautiful Saviour, Wonderful Counsellor,
Clothed in majesty, Lord of history,
You're the Way, the Truth, the Life.
Star of the Morning, glorious in holiness,
You're the Risen One, heaven's Champion
And You reign, You reign over all.*

I long to be where the praise is never-ending,
Yearn to dwell where the glory never fades;
Where countless worshippers will share one song,
And cries of 'worthy' will honour the Lamb!

Words: Stuart Townend

Prayers of Intercession

Loving God, we pray for those in authority, that they may not manipulate truth to retain power.

May the kingship of Christ guide them.

We pray for those exploited or abused by those in positions of power.

May the kingship of Christ guide them.

We pray for those robbed of their freedom for challenging injustice.

May the kingship of Christ guide them.

We pray for our church, that in confidence we would share your truths that we know, and in humility seek out the truths we have yet to learn.

May the kingship of Christ guide us.

We pray for one another and ourselves, that we would be open to truth and eager for wisdom.

May the kingship of Christ guide us.

Amen.

Collect

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. Amen

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him King of glory now.
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

At his voice creation sprang at once to sight,
all the angel faces, all the hosts of light,
thrones and dominations, stars upon their way,
all the heavenly orders in their great array.

Humbled for a season to receive a name
from the lips of sinners unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious, when from death he passed.

In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue
all that is not holy, all that is not true;
crown him as your Captain in temptation's hour:
let his will enfold you in its light and power.

Brothers, this Lord Jesus shall return again,
with his Father's glory, with his angel train;
for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him King of glory now.

Caroline Marie Noel 1817 - 1877

A sending out prayer

Christ our King, as we go from this place, assure us of your presence with us – for we belong to you. Help us to look for truth in all places, to seek and listen to your voice, and to use your power to serve. Bring heaven to earth and reign in our lives. We pray in your name, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Some items are © ROOTS for Churches Ltd (www.rootsontheweb.com) 2002-2020. Reproduced with permission.

An act of Spiritual Communion

You may wish to find a space for prayer in front of a cross, a candle, or a special place. You might choose to make your Spiritual Communion at a particular time of day, or after viewing a live streamed service.

Reflect on the day and on your relationships.

- *What good things have come from God today?*
- *Where have I fallen short?*
- *What might I do tomorrow?*

You may wish to say or pray

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Read the following words from Scripture. If you have access to today's readings for Holy Communion, you may wish to read and reflect on them.

Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.' John 6.35

Pray for the needs of the world, for your local community, and for those close to you. End with the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father...

Give thanks for the saving death and resurrection of Jesus and ask him to be with you now. Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.

O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Conclude with the following:

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Clergy Team

The Rev'd. Canon Peter Coates
The Vicarage, Church Street, Spilsby, PE23 5EF
email: peter.coates50@yahoo.com
Tel: 01790 752526

The Rev'd. Ms. Fran Jeffries
The Rectory, Horbling Lane, Stickney PE22 8DQ
email: revfjeffries@outlook.com

The Rev'd. Mrs Joan Thornett
email: fctjw@btinternet.com
Tel: 01790 754151

The Rev'd Mrs Jean Coates
Contact via Spilsby Vicarage – As above
email: coatesjean@yahoo.co.uk

Rev'd. Mrs Teresa McLaughlin &
Mr Paul McLaughlin – Community Chaplain
The Rectory, Scremby Road Partney PE23 4PG

tmclaughlin@tiscali.co.uk

01790 752344

The Rev'd Judith Simons

revjudithsimons@hotmail.com

Or Contact via Stickney Rectory – As above

Saints on Earth ¶ November

Cecilia 22 November Martyr at Rome, c.230

The life of Cecilia is unknown. Believed to have been martyred at Rome in 230, she is the subject of a fifth-century legend. This legend tells of how Cecilia, a Christian woman of noble birth, was to be married to a pagan man called Valerian. Valerian, and his brother Tiburtius, became Christians and were martyred. Cecilia was arrested whilst burying the brothers and sentenced to death. She died after several unsuccessful attempts by incompetent Roman guards to kill her.

Although this legend has no historical reliability, Cecilia has been venerated from the fifth century, when stories about her spread. There is, however, some evidence of the martyrdom of Valerian and Tiburtius.

Yet a church in Rome was founded by a woman called Cecilia, and the two ancient stories have been combined, with the result that her story became more believable. Relics uncovered at the church in the sixteenth century were found in a well preserved state, adding to the legend.

The fifth-century 'acts' which first told of her life recalls her singing to the Lord as she was married to her then pagan husband. For this reason she was chosen as patron saint of church music in the sixteenth century. This patronage has led to many poems and songs being written in her honour, including compositions by Purcell, Handel and Britten. Chaucer used her legend in his Canterbury Tales (The second Nun), and Cecilia is also depicted in many paintings and mosaics.

Clement 23 November Bishop of Rome, Martyr, c.100

According to the oldest list of Roman bishops, Clement was the third Bishop of Rome. He is believed to have been bishop from AD 92 to 100.

Legend records that the Apostle Peter himself consecrated Clement, and that Clement relinquished the position to Linus, only to take it up again after Linus' death. Early Church historians point out that Clement knew both Peter and Paul. There is little evidence to suggest that Clement was martyred, his 'life' being written in the fourth century and legendary in character.

The Letter of Clement to Corinth, composed just before the persecution of Domitian, was still read frequently in the city at the end of the second century. The letter shows the position of Rome as Church of honour and authority in relation to other, younger Churches. The Letter, which can be ascribed to Clement with certainty, shows him to be a man concerned with unity and peace, one who sought to restore order to the factious Corinthian Church, and who emphasized the emerging role of bishops and priests at the Eucharist. Clement emphasizes apostolic succession, the responsibility of all to preach the gospel, and stresses the duty of the Church to pray for those in power. Let him who has love in Christ keep the commandments of Christ. Who can describe the bond of the love of God? What man is able to tell the excellence of its beauty, as it ought to be told? The height to which love exalts is unspeakable. Love unites us to God. Love covers a multitude of sins. Love bears all things, is long-suffering in all things. There is nothing base, nothing arrogant in love. Love admits of no schisms: love gives rise to no subversion: love does all things in harmony. By love have all the elect of God been made perfect; without love nothing is well-pleasing to God. In love has the Lord taken us to Himself. On account of the Love he bore us, Jesus Christ our Lord gave His blood for us by the will of God; His flesh for our flesh, and His soul for our souls.

Clement: xlix

Catherine of Alexandria 25 November Martyr, 4th century

The Life of Catherine was written in the eighth century, and she owes her place in history to this legend.

According to tradition, Catherine was of a royal family and at the age of 18 she protested against the persecution of Christians by the Emperor Maxentius. Maxentius brought in 50 philosophers to convince her of the errors of Christianity. After prolonged debate some of these philosophers were converted to Christ, but all were killed because of their failure to silence Catherine.

Catherine is said to have refused a proposal of marriage from the Emperor himself and as a consequence was thrown into jail. She then converted all her fellow prisoners and jailers. Maxentius was furious, and ordered her to be tied to a spiked wheel (later called a Catherine Wheel). The wheel broke, and Catherine was subsequently beheaded.

Catherine's legend flourished throughout the Middle Ages, particularly through the period of the Crusades. She became the patron saint of young girls, students and nurses. Her legend spread partly through paintings and other artistic representations of her life.

Isaac Watts 25 November Hymn Writer, 1748

Isaac Watts was born in Southampton in 1674 and educated at the grammar school there. Having considerable academic ability he came to the attention of a local benefactor who offered to send him to university. But rather than Anglican Oxford or Cambridge Watts chose the highly regarded Dissenting Academy at Stoke Newington in Middlesex. Leaving there in 1694 he worked first as a private tutor before entering the Independent ministry, first as assistant in 1699, then three years later as pastor of Mark Lane Chapel in London.

Because of deteriorating health he resigned his ministry at Mark Lane in 1712 and retired to Abney Park, Stoke Newington, where for the remaining 36 years of his life he lived under the patronage of the Abney family. Here his limited financial independence allowed him the freedom to write and yet he was said to have given away to the poor a third of his modest allowance. Watts has sometimes been accused of harbouring Unitarian sympathies but this was probably an inaccurate inference from his known opposition to a proposal in 1719 to require Nonconformist ministers to subscribe to the doctrine of the Trinity. It would appear to have been the proposed compulsion rather than the doctrine itself that he opposed.

Physically unprepossessing, it was his serene and spiritual manner and his unswerving faith that endeared him to others and is reflected in the words of many of his hymns. In fact he wrote over six hundred hymns though few of these are now in regular use. Among his hymns still sung are *Jesus shall reign where'er the sun*, *Joy to the world* and, *one of the finest English hymns of any age*, *When I survey the wondrous cross*.

Known as the father of English hymn writing, Watts both continued in the tradition of metrical Psalms (e.g. Psalm 90 – *O God, our help in ages past*) and began a general move away from that rather limited musical diet to a richer variety of hymnody that took root in both Nonconformity and the Church of England.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down:
When did such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!