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Dear Sisters and Brothers

Today, 17<sup>th</sup> November is my Grandmother's birthday. It was a date I always remembered from quite a small child. I don't know why except she was very special to me, she would sit with me and listen to all my woes and would encourage me in everything I did. She was a wonderful Christian lady whose faith was strong, but she also understood how youngsters felt. For example, when Grandpa went to church on a Sunday evening and I was staying with them by myself, she would say, "Let's have a game of cards!" He would not have approved. When it got near to time for him to come home she would say, "I think it's time to put the cards away now!" We had an understanding between us. Gran died in 1969 but I have never forgotten her and for several years I would long to talk with her.

I know she would have approved of what I have done in my life and especially now as a priest in the Anglican Church. I'm not so sure about Grandpa, he was a dyed-in-the-wool Baptist and would certainly disapprove of women in a ministerial position.

I am taking next week off. I would like a few days away before the start of the Christmas rush. Eddie is preparing a list of all the services and events in December. Please keep the list so you know what is going on. Please pray for every event. I regret there was no thought last week which was due to the Remembrance services taking a lot of preparation. Also, there will be no thought for next week. I will aim to send out some in December though this may not always happen.

Our service this weekend is on Sunday, 21st November at 9.30 am at Holton le Clay when we will celebrate Holy Communion. The next significant dates are 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December when the Christmas Trees will be on display at Holton le Clay Church. Please come along to view how the participants have decorated the various trees.

Another sight to watch out for is the turning on of the new lights on the Holton le Clay church tower. Our electrician is coming to erect them this week. The arrangement of poles and lights will be secure so we hope this construction will not fall down, as the others did after many years of service. They will probably look a bit different but will still display the light of Christmas as did our Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray that you will all keep safe and well.

With love, *Rev'd Jenny*

**Collect:** Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

**Readings:** Daniel 7: 9-10, 13, 14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1: 4b-8; John 18: 33-37

**Post Communion:** Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Reflection:**

How did we get to the end of another liturgical year? Time has raced ahead again. An alternative collect or the Post Communion Prayer for this week reads, "Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people, that they bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be richly rewarded: through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen"

This Sunday is a special one and the last Sunday of the Church year. Next week begins the church year with the four Sundays of Advent. Our collect today reminds us that it is 'Stir Up Sunday' a Sunday synonymous with Christmas puddings. The great cry 'stir up' was a reminder to congregations to get the Christmas pudding made in plenty of time to mature before Christmas. An important addition to the mixture is a coin, whoever gets it on their plate on Christmas Day should get worldly riches heaped upon them.

However, the prayer is actually asking God for something much more important. We're praying that God will stir up our wills, so that we might get on with doing the good works that he has planned for us to do. Then, as a consequence, we pray that we might receive our abundant reward.

In an age when so much is about how we feel or what is happening in the economic climate, it's interesting to get another perspective. In the end, it's our will, rather than our feelings or our financial standing, that's the most important guide of our actions.

Real love isn't about how we feel; it's about choosing, by our wills, to be kind to others even though we may not feel kind towards them. Our feelings shouldn't dominate our wills. And so we pray that God will "stir up" our wills, so that they will be in charge of us, doing what we know is right. In this prayer we recognise that we need God's help in order for our wills to function properly.

This Sunday we remember that Jesus is King, Lord of all.

**Songs:** CCLI No. 2130908 *St Peter's Church, Holton le Clay*

**Jesus is king** - Wendy Churchill

Jesus is king and I will extol him  
Give Him the glory, and honour His name  
He reigns on high, enthroned in the  
heavens  
Word of the Father, exalted for us

We have a hope that is steadfast and  
certain  
Gone through the curtain and touching the  
throne  
We have a Priest who is there interceding  
Pouring His grace on our lives day by day

We come to Him, our Priest and Apostle  
Clothed in His glory and bearing His name  
Laying our lives with gladness before Him  
Filled with His Spirit we worship the King

O Holy One, our hearts do adore You  
Thrilled with Your goodness we give You  
our praise  
Angels in light with worship surround Him  
Jesus, our Saviour, forever the same

**His name is higher** - Anon

His name is higher than any other  
His name is Jesus, His name is Lord

His name is wonderful, His name is  
counsellor,  
His name is prince of peace, the Mighty  
God.

He is the plan of God, He is the mystery,  
In Him we live and move and have our  
being.

O you of little faith, why do You doubt  
Him?  
His yoke is easy, His burden light.

In Him is victory, in Him redemption,  
In Him salvation, He sets us free.

**Jesus, the name high over all** - Charles Wesley

Jesus, the name high over all,  
In hell, or earth, or sky:  
Angels and men before it fall,  
And devils fear and fly.

Jesus, the name to sinners dear,  
The name to sinners giv'n;  
It scatters all their guilty fear,  
It brings them peace of heav'n.

Jesus the prisoner's fetters breaks,  
And bruises Satan's head;  
Pow'r into strengthless souls He speaks,  
And life into the dead.

Oh, that the world might taste and see,  
The riches of His grace!  
The arms of love that compass me,  
Would all mankind embrace.

Him as my righteousness I show,  
His saving truth proclaim:  
'Tis all my business here below,  
To cry, Behold the Lamb!

Happy, if with my latest breath  
I may but gasp His name:  
Preach Him to all, and cry in death,  
"Behold, behold the Lamb!"