

## Prayers for 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Jan Teale

They say that, because of the lockdowns, reading has increased a great deal. You do see adverts in the press for certain books which are deemed to be 'a good read'.

Perhaps I can have the temerity to recommend a good read too – what about the Gospel of John?

Our gospel reading for this Sunday is from the opening part of John's gospel – it is a very well known and very well read piece at all times of the church year.

You may not be too keen to undertake reading this part of the bible but let me just mention a few things – mainly what it is not. Over 90% of John is unique to his gospel – it does not contain a genealogy or any record of Jesus's birth, childhood, temptation, transfiguration or the appointment of the disciples nor any account of Jesus's parables or the ascension.

Yet in every chapter Jesus's deity is revealed. John gives us the great 'I am.....' statements. John gives us a powerful look at Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God.

So why not read what John has to say and commit yourself, as he did, to believe in and follow him. It's a great read!

Let us pray: We thank you for your servant John and for all he wrote about you. Help us to follow these words so that your power and love are revealed to us, and so encourage us to believe in you. Help us to understand your nature so that we may grow every day as your followers.                      Amen

And we pray for the recently departed Edward (Ted) Bennett and for all who are ill, whether at home or in hospital, or who may be sad and lonely, especially those who have lost family and friends recently and for whom life will never be the same again. We pray also for Harry Johnson, whose anniversary occurs this week.                      Amen