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Cover artwork: 'Journey to the Cross' by Primrose Northrop acrylic on cotton



CALENDAR OF PRAYER

'Praying for each other; praying with each other'



April 2025

1 Tue Praying with the Stour Valley Deanery: for Chaplains

Pray for all those exercising chaplaincy ministry - formally and informally - within Schools, uniformed organisations, residential care communities, community clubs, businesses, health care groups, prisons, police, armed services and in sport. May God give them wisdom to respond to the opportunities given, to be assured of their calling to be witnesses to Christ. May they know the support of local churches and see God at work wherever they go.

*Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Masasi – The Anglican Church of Tanzania*

2 Wed The Benefice of Chartham

Clergy: Andrew Edwards
Reader: Gerry Willis
Reader-in-Training: David Arnott
Pastoral Assistant: Angela Hirst

*Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Maseno East – The Anglican Church of Kenya*



Diocese of Canterbury
CHANGED LIVES → CHANGING LIVES

**Jesus Christ, Saviour and Friend,
Meet with us in the night-time of our unknowing;
Sit with us in the desert of our refining;
Restore us through new birth in your Spirit,
That your Church might become a seedbed of justice
and peace. Amen.**

Spend some time reflecting on the picture of Jesus and Nicodemus, and read the story in John 3:1-15. What new shoots might be emerging as we wrestle with tough questions?

To find out more about the Changing Lives Prayer network, visit canterburydiocese.org/prayer or email Lbywater@diocant.org

Image: 'Nicodemus & Jesus' by Primrose Northrop 2025

THE WONDER OF PRAYER

LENT – NOTICING GREEN SHOOTS



'Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.' (John 3:6 NLT)

God, Wellspring of Life -

- As we journey through Lent and the Coming of Spring, help us to notice signs of life in the wilderness places.
- As we draw near to you in worship, renew us for mission.
- As we encounter those who feel uprooted and displaced, show us how to be an oasis of refreshing.
- As the Church faces uncomfortable truths, root within us a determination to become a safer place for all.
- As our world rolls on the shifting sands of political change, bring us to faithful prayer.



3 Thurs Praying Together: for our Lenten Journey

Lord, during this Lenten period, we pray that you will help us to use this time to gain a better understanding of what you did for us. We do tend to take your presence for granted, and forget that what we have is due to you.

Prayer written by Revd Stephen Brown - assistant Curate at Cheriton with Newington Benefice

*Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Maseno North The Anglican Church of Kenya*

4 Fri King's Wood Benefice

Clergy: Sue Martin

School: St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Please pray for us as we discern what God is calling us to do throughout the Benefice in the field of mission. Pray for the Martin family, as Revd Sue settles in as the new Rector. Pray that Easter will be a time of renewal and blessing for all and that the services will have good attendance. Please pray for the children and young people in the Benefice and for the school and teachers.

*Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Maseno South The Anglican Church of Kenya*

5 Sat The United Wye Benefice

Clergy: Ravi Holy, Linda Cross, Dawn Stamper

Assistant Curate: Dan Ralph

Readers: Lucy Carvill, Clare Masters, Kevin Rall, Nigel Poole

School: Bodsham Church of England Primary School

We give thanks for the members of the United Wye Benefice ministry team, lay and ordained, and pray they are strengthened and inspired by God's presence to face the challenges of ministry.

Please pray for the family services within the benefice. That those already established continue to flourish, and for the Stone Street Group of Churches where fresh initiatives are being considered or revitalised in partnership with the schools.

Our church buildings remain open thanks to the time and effort of Churchwardens, Treasurers and volunteers - we thank God for the variety of gifts and talents that make it possible. Please pray that their generosity of spirit will inspire others to consider how they also can help.

The community breakfast in Stelling village hall is going from strength to strength. Led by a small but dedicated church team it provides great community engagement while also raising much needed funds.

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Maseno West – The Anglican Church of Kenya

30 Wed Boughton Monchelsea: St Peter

Clergy: Vacant

Readers: David Parry, Christine Holland

Churchwardens: Peter Holland, Carol Parry

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of México – La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico

28 Mon Praying with the North Downs Deanery: for Clergy with Permission to Officiate

Please pray with us for those with Permission to Officiate within our Deanery. We thank God for their willingness to continue serving the Church with generosity and joy. May they be upheld and strengthened in their ministry. Please pray for:

David Bates, Peter Callway, Robin Gill, Millie Hart, Lesley Ludlow, Yvonne Salmon

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Meridional – Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

29 Tue Praying with the North Downs Deanery: for Chaplains

Pray for all those exercising chaplaincy ministry - formally and informally - within Schools, uniformed organisations, residential care communities, community clubs, businesses, health care groups, prisons, police, armed services and in sport. May God give them wisdom to respond to the opportunities given, to be assured of their calling to be witnesses to Christ. May they know the support of local churches and see God at work wherever they go.

Jackie Saunders, Peter Ashford

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Meru – The Anglican Church of Kenya

6 Sun Praying with the Maidstone Deanery

Area Dean: Gareth Dickinson

Lay Chair: Fiona Higgs

Secretary: Wendy Suffield

Treasurer: Susan Ghinn

School: St Augustine Academy

Anglican Communion:

5th Sunday of Lent

Iglesia Anglicana de Chile

7 Mon Praying with the Maidstone Deanery: for Clergy with Permission to Officiate

Please pray with us for those with Permission to Officiate within our Deanery. We thank God for their willingness to continue serving the Church with generosity and joy. May they be upheld and strengthened in their ministry. Please pray for:

Richard Birch, Clinton Davis, Alisoun Francis, David Grimwood, David Jones, Paul Kish, Alan Le Grys, Richard Love, Paul Matthias, Peter Maurice, Adi McCall, John Richardson, Brian Stevenson, Colin Terry, Julian Waite, Liz Walker, Robin Williamson

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Masindi-Kitara – The Church of the Province of Uganda

8 Tue Praying with the Maidstone Deanery: for Chaplains

Pray for all those exercising chaplaincy ministry - formally and informally - within Schools, uniformed organisations, residential care communities, community clubs, businesses, health care groups, prisons, police, armed services and in sport. May God give them wisdom to respond to the opportunities given, to be assured of their calling to be witnesses to Christ. May they know the support of local churches and see God at work wherever they go.

Clifford Goble, Nicola Mitra, Sue Yeo, Susie-Alexandra Simpson, Geoffrey Burn, Erika Catchpole, Katja Svarts, Sue Fauchon-Jones

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Massachusetts – The Episcopal Church

9 Wed Praying with the Maidstone IGNITE Hub

Please pray today for our parish-based Pioneer Angie Frost, who organises an Ignite group to meet each week at St Martin's, Maidstone. She and the team work really hard to lead worship every Monday evening. A hearty meal is served, and we are pleased that a regular group of people now attend and have been doing so for years. Please pray that they, and all newcomers, will draw closer to Christ and come to know him as their trusted friend. We thank God also that the community of St Martin's continues to support this valuable initiative.

Prayer written by Revd Joyce Addison - Priest-in-Charge at St Martin's, Maidstone

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Western Massachusetts – The Episcopal Church

26 Sat Maidstone: St Paul

Clergy: Vacant

Churchwardens: Brian Beswick, Mark Turner

Loving God, we give thanks for your encouraging presence throughout our interregnum and for the faithful retired priests you sent us from around the Diocese to lead our communion services. We pray for our church family who have supported the church in prayer and practical help during the interregnum. We thank you for your gift of a new priest-in-charge, and ask your blessing on her as she starts her ministry with us and becomes familiar with our parish and the needs of all who live, work and worship in this place. Amen.

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Melbourne – The Anglican Church of Australia

27 Sun Praying with the North Downs Deanery

Area Dean: Peter Callway

Lay Chair: Rhian Banham

Secretary: Mary Tasker

Treasurer: Peter Roberts

We face uncertain times, along with others in our diocese and nation, as we seek to fill clergy posts that remain vacant. We have more posts vacant than are occupied at present, and the strain on the hard working churchwardens, lay ministers and clergy with permission to officiate is increasing. Pray for wisdom, for strength, and for the right people to come forward to fill the vacancies.

Anglican Communion:

2nd Sunday of Easter

The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean

24 Thurs Praying for the Parkwood Community

Clergy: Vacant
Reader: Linda Thatcher

Please pray for all those who live, work and worship in the Parkwood community. Bless the work of the Princess Project, which works tirelessly with the many young and needy families in this neighbourhood. Pray for those who are elderly, housebound or disabled and for all who struggle with social housing issues. We ask that our small team may be able to support their needs and show the love of Christ to all who cross our path.

*Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Medak – The Church of South India
(United)*

25 Fri Maidstone: St Michael and All Angels

Clergy: John Ainslie
Reader: Eleanor Relle
Schools: St Michael's CE School Federation (Infant), St Michael's CE Junior School

*Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Central Melanesia – The Anglican Church of
Melanesia*

10 Thurs Praying Together: Making time during Lent

Loving Father,
As we lean into this time of Lent,
Please meet us right where we are.
Give us strength to withstand the evil one,
Using the sword of the Spirit
Like Jesus himself did in the wilderness.
As we empty ourselves and our schedules
To make room for more of you,
Fill us with your Holy Spirit
This coming Easter and always,
Amen.

Prayer written by Revd Christa Brodie-Levinsohn -
Assistant Curate at Thanington: St Nicholas and St Faith

*Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Masvingo – The Church of the Province of
Central Africa*

11 Fri Allington: St Nicholas with Maidstone: St Peter

Clergy: Claudette Gayle
Churchwardens: Nigel Smetham, Jennifer Stone
Anna Chaplain: Erika Catchpole

Pray today for Revd Claudette Gayle who has recently been installed as Priest in Charge. Pray that all people who live in these parishes will re/connect with the Holy Spirit in a deeper and personal way than they have ever been experienced before.

*Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Matabeleland – The Church of the Province
of Central Africa*

12 Sat Loose: All Saints

Clergy: Steve Price, Chris Thom, Chris Conn

*Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Matana –
The Anglican Church of Burundi*

13 Sun Praying Together: Palm Sunday

In this modern world we are plugged into so many things, social media, news stories and other stuff, which cause us stress, anxiety and distraction from you. Lord, help me to unplug myself from the busy swirl of the world, and plug into you this Holy Week. That being attuned to you I may build my relationship with you Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.

Prayer written by Revd Heather Tapsell - Assistant Curate at Folkestone: Trinity Benefice

*Anglican Communion:
Palm Sunday
The Church of England*

14 Mon Maidstone: All Saints with St Philip with St Stephen (Tovil)

Clergy: Vacant
Churchwardens: Denise Joy, Robert Philo
Anna Chaplain: Katja Svarts
School: Archbishop Courtenay CE Primary School

*Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Matlosane – The Anglican Church of
Southern Africa*

23 Wed Parkwood: Christ Church (Day 1)

Clergy: Vacant
Reader: Linda Thatcher

Today we give thanks for the faithful members in our congregation - and for the new members who have recently joined us.

Pray for opportunities to invite and witness to the community.

We pray for those who use our church building on a regular basis, may we nurture good relationships with them. And we pray especially for the Celebration church who hire the building for activities throughout the week, and for worship on Sunday afternoons.

Many of our congregation are elderly with housing issues, please pray for them and for our young people who are so keen to learn about Jesus.

Bless our Youth Alpha group which will be running through the summer term.

Pray too for Linda as she seeks to run the church, listening to the Lord and seeking to do his will.

*Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Meath and Kildare – The Church of Ireland*

21 Mon Maidstone: St Luke the Evangelist

Clergy: Gareth Dickinson
Assistant Curates: Hollie Butler, Barbara Lewis
Reader in Training: Nat Croft

*Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Mbeere –
The Anglican Church of Kenya*

22 Tue Maidstone: St Martin

Clergy: Joyce Addison
Assistant Curate: Robin Fassenfelt
Anna Chaplain: Sue Yeo
Ignite Enabler: Angela Frost

Thanksgiving to God for enabling the people of St. Martin's to come together to raise funds in really creative ways for our Accessible For All project (step-free entrance, accessible toilet and nappy change). We hope to start the work on Monday 28 April. We are very grateful to our deacon Rev Robin, and for our parish-based Pioneer Angie Frost, for all they do with people in the community. Please pray for them, as well as our lay minsters, wardens and all who commit to serving the people of this area with the love of Christ. Finally, our Sunday Club have experienced a change in their adult team and our Youth Group are now co-workers in worship once a month. They are a resilient and passionate group of young people - may they grow closer to Christ in their faith journeys.

*Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Mbhashe – The Anglican Church of Southern Africa*

15 Tue Maidstone: St Andrew (Barming Heath)

Clergy: Anthea Mitchell

Please pray for our children and youth work, about to be revamped this month. We are so blessed to have so many children and youth people at our church as well as willing volunteers to disciple them; we pray that all involved will feel valued and fulfilled, and come to know God better as they see Christ in one another. Pray too for our diverse community, that each person we meet feels welcomed, included and loved, whatever their culture, heritage, age, gender, social status, abilities or sexuality. We ask for God's help to see one another as God sees us.



*Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Mauritius –
The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean*

16 Wed Maidstone: St Faith

Clergy: Mark Pavey
Reader: Sue Shaw

*Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Mbaise – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

17 Thurs Praying Together: Maundy Thursday

Lord, we remember that you washed your disciples' feet and then, sharing the Passover meal with them, you took bread and wine as the memorial of your body and blood, to be broken for us. We thank you for this Holy sacrament, reminding us of your sacrifice for us, the forgiveness of our sins and your loving presence that is always with us. May we humbly live our lives following you, serving others and spreading the Gospel message as faithful disciples in the world today. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayer written by Revd Hilary Baldwin - Assistant Curate at Eastray and Woodnesborough Benefice

*Anglican Communion: Maundy Thursday
The Diocese of Mbale – The Church of the Province of Uganda*

18 Fri Praying Together: Good Friday

Dear Lord Jesus, we marvel at the cross. On the cross, we see the human rejection of love, and we see the infinite bounty of God's love that no sin can finally unmake. Fill us with your love, so that we may also live in the centre of the pain of this world, and follow your pattern of loving self-sacrifice. Fill us with hope, as we long for brokenness to be transformed into beauty and ashes into joy. May we come at last to the healing secured on that first Good Friday. Amen.

Prayer written by Revd Angela Swindley - Assistant Curate at Canterbury: All Saints

*Anglican Communion: Good Friday
The Diocese of North Mbale – The Church of the Province of Uganda*

19 Sat Praying together: Holy Saturday

Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me a sinner, especially at this very holy time. As I turn my eyes away from the dereliction of Good Friday, may I never forget that you did all that for me. And as I prepare for the joy of Easter, may I promise to follow you with humility and commitment, wherever you lead. Amen.

Prayer written by Revd Paul Henderson - Assistant Curate at Walmer and Cornilo Benefice

*Anglican Communion:
Holy Saturday
The Diocese of Mbamili – The Church of Nigeria*

20 Sun Praying Together: Easter Sunday

Glorious God, who has led us on the twisted path beyond the foot of the cross to the entrance of the tomb, where we have wept in the darkness, where we now stand in the liminal space between earth and heaven. Fill us with Your peace and love so that we may joyfully go into the world to proclaim the good news of the light of the risen Christ. Amen.

Prayer written by Revd Maria Stuttaford - Assistant Curate at Denswood Benefice

*Anglican Communion:
Easter Day
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6)
Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui*