



Diocese of Canterbury
CHANGED LIVES ➔ CHANGING LIVES

CALENDAR OF PRAYER

'Praying for each other; praying with each other'



December 2024

1 DEC

PRAYING TOGETHER: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Heavenly Father, as we enter this season of Advent, may we feel your presence with us as we journey towards the crib of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

Fill our hearts with the hope that, as we reflect upon his coming into our broken world, all hearts will be changed to work for peace and reconciliation.

May we be mindful that, in all the suffering and need in your creation, your Son shines as a beacon in the darkness. As the star led the wise men to that stable in Bethlehem, so may we be led to offer you our lives afresh in your service.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer written by Revd Michael Gooch - PTO Priest in the Romney Deanery

Anglican Communion:

Advent 1

Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

2 DEC

PRAYING TOGETHER WITH THE ELHAM DEANERY: FOR THE CLERGY AND PEOPLE

Area Deans: Barry Knott, Bob Weldon

Lay Chair: John Campbell, Alan French

Secretary: Bill Mills

Treasurer: Laurie Maxfield

Father God, we give thanks for a wonderful and committed group of retired PTO priests. We can see your Spirit working through them for the greater proclamation of the Good News.

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Kitale – The Anglican Church of Kenya

3 DEC

PRAYING TOGETHER WITH THE ELHAM 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:

Pray in particular today for:

Peter Ashman, Kim Aston, Bruce Bridgewood, Michael Chandler, Pam Clark, Ted Clark, Peter Cornish, David Goodburn, Ronald Herbert, Martin Jewitt, David Makepeace, Roger Martin, Barry Preece, Jo Robertson, David Russell, John Tomlinson, Eileen Webb, Kate McNeice, Roger Smith

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Kiteto – The Anglican Church of Tanzania

4 DEC

PRAYING TOGETHER: O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

Lord, prepare us for your coming – in the world.

Come, drive away despair from our politics;

revive our dreams of justice;

restore our passion for what is good, right and true.

Establish your just and gentle rule

in the places where peace has been powerless

and violent people have had their way.

Guard well the new springtime of hope

in places where peace has come like a gift,

wrapped in reconciliation and gladness.

Amen.

Prayer written by Revd Carol Smith - Canterbury Overseas Group Chair and Diocesan Ministry Consultant

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Kitgum – The Church of the Province of Uganda

5 DEC

PRAYING TOGETHER WITH THE ELHAM 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.

Pray in particular today for:

Malcolm Sawyer, Tricia Hill, David Slater, Bill Mills, Heather Parsons, Sarah Grinsell, Maggie Smithard

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Kitui – The Anglican Church of Kenya

6 DEC

PRAYING TOGETHER WITH THE ELHAM DEANERY: FOR MISSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Please pray today for the Missional Learning community gathering, worshipping, praying and witnessing in our deanery. Pray that signs of a living faith will spring up in unexpected places. Pray that we will dare to join with God in creating a caring, sustainable and growing Christian presence. Teach us to listen to the voice of God, and to follow where he leads us. May we be a means by which the love God has for the world is shared. Through our acts of loving service and discipleship, may we share the good news.

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Kivu – Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda

7 DEC

CHERITON WITH NEWINGTON

Clergy: Stephen Crofts

Assistant Curate: Stephen Brown

Readers: Frank Conley, Jenny Hoyle

Reader-in-Training: Stephen Ind

Schools: All Souls CE Primary School, Seabrook CE Primary School, St Martin's CE Primary School

Give thanks with us today as we're celebrating the start of 2 new ministries with a new reader in training and a newly ordained distinctive deacon. Their roles will strongly focus on making people be aware of their god gifted roles within the parishes and beyond.

For the events we've had connecting us with wider society, particularly our rural craft focus at St Nicholas, Newington.

For the ongoing messaging of inclusion as our work continues to major being alongside individual refugees with specific needs, and other people who also journey with us for a time before life takes them on elsewhere.

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of North Kivu – Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

8 DEC

PRAYING TOGETHER: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Lord of all creation, in times past searchers were drawn to follow your Bethlehem Star to worship you.

We pray today for all those who will be attending the Trees of Love Services this year, as they seek your comfort and peace, and grieve the loss of loved ones. May they find solace and be bathed in your presence.

We pray too for all those who will be drawn to our churches, for the young and the old, as they attend carol services, nativity plays, Christingles, and other festive community events and services. We pray that each of them will be left with a sense of the mystery of your story; and that some may seek to know you more. We ask that our churches will be good witnesses, shining brightly with your promise of hope.

We pray this in your precious name.

Amen.

Prayer written by Stephen Ind - ALM and Reader-in-Training at Cheriton with Newington Benefice

Anglican Communion: Advent 2

Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan

9 DEC

ELHAM VALLEY GROUP OF CHURCHES



Clergy: Carol Bates, Stephen Dougal

Assistant Curate: Sharon Paine

Readers: Diana Baldwin, Janet Butcher-Weisner, Bill Meakin

Schools: Elham CE Primary School, Selsted CE Primary School, School: Lyminge CE Primary School

Pray with us today. With three rural church schools, we are called to build ever stronger links with the staff, children and their families. Following attending the 'Leading your Church into Growth Conference' we are praying in focused fashion for the missional work being developed within our communities and our schools. Please pray with us for all those outreach

initiatives being planned, the community contacts being developed, and the schools engagement currently ongoing, as well as our expanding Young Explorers group.

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Kobe – The Nippon Sei Ko Kai

10 DEC

FOLKESTONE: ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

Clergy: Adam Denley

Readers: Robert Grieve, Alex Finlow, Joan Herbert

Reader-in-Training: Ruth Jones

Please pray for the following:

- For all the candidates who attended our Christianity Explored course, that they will continue to be challenged to keep reading the Bible and feel drawn into the church community and for them to join life groups so that they can continue to deepen their trust in the gospel.
- The Open the book team, leading assemblies in our local primary schools. Do pray for them to be engaging and growing faith.
- For each of us to rejoice in the good news of Jesus again this Christmas and that God by His Spirit would be bringing many to faith and repentance through all the additional services being offered this side of Christmas day.

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Koforidua – The Church of the Province of West Africa

11 DEC

PRAYING TOGETHER: FOR THOSE WHO ARE WORKING OVER THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Lord Jesus, as the church remembers Advent, help us also to remember those for whom the Christmas run up means long hours and tensions at work. We lift up especially the 20% of workers doing shift work, whose lives do not revolve in a tidy 7-day cycle and for whom church attendance is at best difficult and who can sometimes feel rejected as a result. Help all of us to remember that, wherever we go this season, whether we are formally chaplains' or not, we can be a Christian Presence to those around us who are swamped by the pressure of Christmas presents. Amen.

Prayer written by Canon David Slater - Trustee Kent Workplace Mission, Chaplain to the Port of Dover & Channel Tunnel

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Kolhapur – The Church of North India (United)

12 DEC

FOLKESTONE: ST MARY, ST EANSWYTHE AND ST SAVIOUR

Clergy: Christopher Johnson

Reader-in-Training: Victoria Friedrich

Schools: Folkestone St Mary's CE Primary Academy, St Eanswythe's CE Primary School

Pray with our churches today. For the life of our parish as we continue our new chapter with a new Priest-in-Charge and following the Translation of the Relics of St Eanswythe. Please pray that we may seize the opportunities God gives us to know him and to serve our whole parish and the people in our care.

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Kollam – Kottarakkara – The Church of South India (United)

13 DEC

FOLKESTONE: ST PETER

Clergy: Vacant

Churchwardens: John Hendy, Andy Kemp

School: St Peter's CE Primary School

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Kondoia – The Anglican Church of Tanzania

14 DEC

FOLKESTONE: HOLY TRINITY BENEFICE

Clergy: Bob Weldon, Roger Smith

Assistant Curate: Bill Mills, Heather Tapsell

Readers: Hilary Richter, Charles Lewis, Barry Lock

Anna Chaplains: Bill Mills, Heather Parsons

School: Christ Church CE Primary Academy

Please pray for our two new curates, Revd Bill Mills and Revd Heather Tapsell. May they be blest and encouraged in their ministry amongst us.

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Kongor – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

15 DEC

PRAYING TOGETHER: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Heavenly Father, there is so much going on in the world and in our own lives, help us to remember to take time out to reconnect with You in quietness and prayer. Let us prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Christ-child, a message of Peace humbly laid in the manger. Amen.

Prayer written by Revd Norman Gilliland - Assistant Curate at Walmer and Cornilo Benefice

Anglican Communion:

Advent 3

The Anglican Church of Tanzania

16 DEC

HAWKINGE BENEFICE

Clergy: Rob Grinsell

Anna Chaplains: Sarah Grinsell, Maggie Smithard

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Kongor – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

17 DEC

HYTHE: ST LEONARD

Clergy: Michael Darkins

School: Hythe Bay CE Primary School

Heavenly Father, thank you for the signs of growth in our church community as your Spirit reaches out to people of all ages in this place. As we begin to develop our youth church, we ask for your blessing on this initiative; that it would receive a warm and supportive response, and would draw young people to worship. And thank you Father, for the 52 years of ministry our Director of Music has given to us and all the blessings you have poured out through him. Guide us as we begin to search for a new musician to help lead us in our worship and praise of you. Amen.

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Kontagora – The Church of Nigeria

18 DEC

LYPNE AND SALTWOOD BENEFICE

Clergy: Barry Knott

Assistant Curate: Tricia Hill

Reader: Bob White

Schools: Lypne CE Primary School, Saltwood CE Primary School

Father, Thank You for the gift of community, the strength of our bonds, and the grace that sustains us. We humbly ask for Your continued presence among us. May Your spirit fill our hearts and guide our actions as we strive to serve one another and fulfil Your purpose. Help us to be instruments of Your peace, love, and kindness in our community. May we seek Your wisdom and embrace Your light. Let our gatherings be filled with joy, understanding, and support, so that we may grow closer to You and each other. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Kootenay – The Anglican Church of Canada

19 DEC

PRAYING TOGETHER WITH THE VINEYARD DEANERY: CLERGY AND PEOPLE

Area Dean: Sue Rose

Lay Chair: Tessa Badcock

Secretary: Karen Stevens

Treasurer: Tony Richter

To give thanks for our deanery chapter as we near the end of our first year of meeting and serving together. To pray for our Deanery Mission and Ministry Committee and deanery synod members as we meet and plan together to grow God's kingdom in our deanery. For all who serve as ordained and lay ministers in Vineyard Deanery.

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Eastern Kowloon – Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

20 DEC

PRAYING TOGETHER WITH THE VINEYARD DEANERY: 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:

Pray in particular today for:

Jacques Desrosiers, Simon Dickson, Keith Fazzani, Tricia Fogden, Sharon Francis, Rosemary Kobus van Wengen, Joy Rapley, Michael Rose, Margaret Roylance, John Saunders

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Western Kowloon – Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

21 DEC

PRAYING TOGETHER WITH THE VINEYARD 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.

Ann Tiplady

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Krishna-Godavari – The Church of South India (United)

22 DEC

PRAYING TOGETHER: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Heavenly Father, in this time of Advent help us in all the busyness of these days to find time to remember what Advent really means. Your love for the world, the promise of the coming Saviour, the wonder of the Word made flesh. May we, like Mary, treasure these things and ponder them in our hearts. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer written by Vicky Friedrich - ALM/Reader in Training at St Mary and St Eanswythe, Folkestone

Anglican Communion:

Advent 4

The Church of the Province of Uganda

23 DEC

DENSWOOD BENEFICE

Clergy: Sue Rose

Assistant Curate: Maria Stuttaford

Reader: Vera Hopkinson

Anna Chaplain: Ann Tiplady

Schools: High Halden CE Primary School, Woodchurch CE Primary School

Our three church communities of Bethersden, High Halden and Woodchurch as we continue to pray and worship together as a new parish. For our PCC and ministry team as they look for God's guidance in how we can grow our church communities. To give thanks for an increase in baptisms and to pray that God will help us to encourage families in new ways.

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Kubwa – The Church of Nigeria

24 DEC

PRAYING TOGETHER: CHRISTMAS EVE

Heavenly Father, we bring you our praise and thanksgiving for sending your Son to dwell among us. Be born in our hearts this night and make us fit to receive you. Fill us with love and joy that we can share with others.

Amen.

Prayer written by Mary Butcher - Reader at Canterbury: St Martin and St Paul

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Kuching – Church of the Province of South East Asia

25 DEC

PRAYING TOGETHER: CHRISTMAS DAY

Loving God,

As we celebrate your birth and incarnation, shape our hearts to receive your gift afresh in this Christmas season.

The fragility of your humanity reminds us that the gift of your love is simple and without cost.

May we be bearers of that love, carrying it into the world, always seeking to reach those who need it the most.

Be with those who welcome new life this day, or those who hold vigil with the dying.

Give wisdom to those who support human life at its beginning and its end.

O come to us, abide with us,

Amen.

Prayer written by Revd Cat Darkins - Spiritual and Care Lead at Pilgrim's Hospice (Ashford)

Anglican Communion:

Christmas Day

The Diocese of Kumasi – The Church of the Province of West Africa

26 DEC

BIDDENDEN: ALL SAINTS AND SMARDEN: ST MICHAEL

Clergy: Jayne Shillito

School: The John Mayne CE Primary School

Pray today for our parishes. We have pop in cafes meeting on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. We seek to be a welcoming Christian presence offering warmth, hospitality and friendship to all. We have a thriving library in Biddenden church along with a take away pantry and our church porch has a take away table which is open every day. We also have a read and rhyme group for young children and their families which meets every Saturday morning. We give thanks for the generosity of our communities in supporting individuals and families at their most vulnerable. We would appreciate prayer for God's continuous guidance towards the way He wants us to grow and how we can share the good news of the gospel more widely.

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Kumi – The Church of the Province of Uganda



Clergy: Lindsay Hammond,
Jeanette Kennett, Andrew Tapsell

Readers: Alison Gilbert, Judy
Vinson, John Badcock, Tessa
Badcock, Alan Gostelow

Schools: St Michael's CE Primary
School, Tenterden CE Junior
School, Wittersham CE Primary
School

Please pray for the ways in which
our mission and outreach is being
expressed through major projects

relating to both fabric and governance. We celebrate the recent completion of a project to restore Rolvenden's church tower clock. Please pray for St. Mildred's in Tenterden as it prepares to close in the new year for several months to allow a major reordering project to take place. Please also pray that the Spirit might guide us in conversations across our benefice as we consider becoming a single parish, and fresh approaches to how our churches are governed.

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Kurunegala – The Church of Ceylon (Extra Provincial)

Area Dean: Chris Hodgkins

Lay Chair: Penny Lowe

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Tony Richter

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Kushtia – The Church of Bangladesh

29 DEC

PRAYING TOGETHER: A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

God who makes a home with us,
we hold in mind those who have nowhere to rest their heads.
May the context of your Son, Jesus Christ's birthplace
and his subsequent call to us 'to love our neighbour as ourselves'
inspire us to reach out to others beyond our own homes and families.

When we find ourselves blessed with friends,
remind us of the sorrow of loneliness,
that we may pray for hearts breaking in solitude.

And when we find ourselves in that solitude,
bless us with the knowledge that others offer that prayer for us,
that by your grace, we may be gathered together
in the company of faith across time and place.
Amen.

Prayer written by Revd Carol Smith - Chair, SJN (The Social Justice Network)

Anglican Communion:

1st Sunday of Christmas

The Episcopal Church

30 DEC

PRAYING TOGETHER WITH THE ROMNEY DEANERY: 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:

Gill Calver, Michael Gooch, Sheila McLachlan, David Parrott

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Kutgi – The Church of Nigeria

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.

Helen Sanderson

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Kwara – The Church of Nigeria



For more information about Wonder, visit
canterburydiocese.org/wonder

To sign up for regular updates from the Changing Lives Prayer Network, visit
canterburydiocese.org/prayer or email lbywater@diocant.org

Cover painting: Primrose Northrop 'Silent night, Holy night' watercolour on recycled card