



**Diocese of Canterbury**  
**CHANGED LIVES ➞ CHANGING LIVES**

# CALENDAR OF PRAYER

‘Praying for each other; praying with each other’



**February 2024**

**1 FEB**

**NORTH DOWNS BENEFICE**

Clergy: Mark Pavey, Robert Tugwell

Clergy with Permission to Officiate: Lesley Ludlow

Readers: Peter Roberts, Alison Callway, Ann Harrison

Anna Chaplain: Jackie Saunders

Pray with us today for the appointment of a new team rector who would serve the North Downs Benefice alongside being vicar at Holy Cross, Bearsted.

We continue to give thanks for all who were able to attend our busy Christmas services. And we pray for the many ministers, leaders, PCC members and helpers who support and lead the ministry in our parishes. We give thanks for each one of them as they generously share their time and talents.

We ask you to pray with us for wisdom and for opportunity, as together we look to reach new people, including families and young people.

*Anglican Communion:*

*The Diocese of Calgary - The Anglican Church of Canada*

**2 FEB**

**PRAYING TOGETHER: CANDLEMAS**



Precious Father, you have peopled this planet with your beloved children, and, to our utter amazement, you have love enough for us all. As we look at Jesus, the embodiment of your love, we are deeply stirred by his call to us to follow him; and we ask for an increase in our longing for deep communion with the one whose own longing for us was enough for him to die to restore us as his family. We ask for the strength and grace to walk faithfully and trustingly along the path you set before us. Amen.

Prayer written by Miriam Westendarp - Authorised Lay Minister at The Bridge Group Benefice

*Anglican Communion:*

*The Presentation of Christ in the Temple*

*The Diocese of California - The Episcopal Church*

**3 FEB**

**NORTH DOWNS BENEFICE: PRAYING FOR THEIR FRESH EXPRESSIONS OF CHURCH**

Pray today for our Fresh Expressions ministry. For the fortnightly service at St John's church, Grove Green, with its own congregation. Which is run in a café church style, and reaches out to many local young families. As we continue this ministry, we pray for wisdom and discernment as we reach out to the adults (as well as the children) and seek to encourage them in their journey with Jesus. We give thanks for all who are involved in organising this ministry.

Prayer written by Revd Robert Tugwell - Team Vicar at the North Downs Benefice

*Anglican Communion:*

*The Diocese of Northern California - The Episcopal Church*

**4 FEB**

**PRAYING WITH THE OSPRINGE DEANERY**

Area Dean: Andrew Sweeney

Lay Chair: Miranda Ford

Secretary: Peter Willcock

Treasurer: Hilary Tulett

*Anglican Communion:*

*2nd Sunday before Lent*

*Sexagesima*

*The Anglican Church of South America*

**5 FEB**

**OSPRINGE 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:

Struan Dunn, Sharran Ireland, Peter Lock, John Mowll, Ros Parrett, Don Ruddle, Sue Smith, Andrew Sweeney, Douglas Turton, Sarah Williams

*Anglican Communion:*

*The Diocese of Cameroon - The Church of the Province of West Africa*

**6 FEB**

## **OSPRINGE DEANERY 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.

Ros Parrett, Caroline Ramshaw, Simon Rowlands

*Anglican Communion:*

*The Diocese of El Camino Real - The Episcopal Church*

**7 FEB**

## **OSPRINGE: PRAYING FOR DEANERY FRESH EXPRESSIONS AND MISSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES**

Please pray today for the Missional Learning communities and the Fresh Expressions of Church 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 Canberra and Goulburn - The Anglican Church of Australia*

**8 FEB**

## **PRAYING TOGETHER: FOR THE MINISTRY OF ANNA CHAPLAINS**



Gracious God and Father,

Thank you for your unfailing love for all your people whatever their age or status. Bless those who are ministering as Anna Chaplains or Anna Friends amongst older people, be they in residential homes, in the community or in our congregations. Inspire your church to continually see you in those who may be of older age. May we be generous in respect, valuing them, just as you value and respect us. We offer these prayers through Jesus who is the hope of the ages and nations. Amen.

Prayer written by Revd Jean and Revd Paul Kerr - Anna Chaplains for St George the Martyr, Deal

*Anglican Communion:*

*The Diocese of Canterbury - The Church of England*

**9 FEB**

**BOUGHTON-UNDER-BLEAN**

Clergy: Catherine Ngangira

Reader: Patricia Saunders

School: Boughton-under-Blean and Dunkirk MP, Hernhill CE Primary School

We are thankful for;

an encouraging start of a new ministry for our churches and Priest in Charge.

Christmas services and all who worshipped with us.

Prayer Requests;

That the Holy Spirit will tend to the seeds that were scattered during the Christmas services so that they will grow and bear fruit.

We ask for wise discernment as we seek God's will and the direction of travel for our benefice.

For encouragement of heart and unity of love as we work together.

For the upcoming baptisms and weddings.

*Anglican Communion:*

*The Diocese of Cape Coast - The Church of the Province of West Africa*

**10 FEB**

**FAVERSHAM BENEFICE**

Clergy: Simon Rowlands, Daniel Corcoran

Readers: Kevin Swinney, Lisa Nissen, Graham Dorkins

School: Ospringe CE Primary School, St Mary of Charity CE Primary School

*Anglican Communion:*

*The Diocese of Cape Town - The Anglican Church of Southern Africa*

**11 FEB**

**PRAYING TOGETHER: AS WE PREPARE FOR LENT**



Jesus, Saviour of us all,

The road of your discipleship is steep and full of troubles.  
We will stumble, but as we do, we know that your arms  
will catch us, hold us, and set us on the path again.

We give thanks that you are with us on our journey to  
your Salvation.

Amen.

Prayer written by Revd Lynn Overington-Hickford -  
Assistant Curate at Deal: St Leonard w St Richard &  
Sholden: St Nicholas w Great Mongeham: St Martin

*Anglican Communion:*

*Sunday next before Lent*

*Quinquagesima*

*Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan*

**12 FEB**

**KINGSDOWN, CREEKSIDE AND HIGH DOWNS**

Clergy: Jim Pye

Assistant Curate: Caroline Turvey

Anna Chaplain & Reader: Caroline Ramshaw

Reader: Pim Baxter

School: Teynham Parochial CE Primary School

We are currently in vacancy and praying as a Benefice that God is calling the right person to come and join us. Please pray with us as we continue to serve our communities during this time, especially as we restart our Community Breakfast Café, and also as we start our new project 'Growbaby' which will provide quality clothing and equipment for babies and children - and other support based on local needs - for free, regardless of income, faith or background. We pray for God's Spirit of unity across this large Benefice in our worship, fellowship and outreach opportunities.

*Anglican Communion:*

*The Diocese of North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba - The Church in the Province of the West Indies*

**13 FEB**

**SHEPHERDS LEES**

Clergy: Peter Newell

Reader: Lesley Brookes

School: Selling CE Primary School

*Anglican Communion:*

*The Diocese of Carlisle - The Church of England*

**14 FEB**

**PRAYING TOGETHER: ASH WEDNESDAY**



As we begin this season of Lent, fill us with the grace of prayer and service. May our offering of prayer and abstinence be secret and our love and compassion in the name of Christ be manifest.

Grant to the church the spirit of true repentance and the joy of sins forgiven. To a world where many trust in material things, bring the knowledge of where the true treasure is to be found.

Grant that we may so deepen and purify our worship that we shall know more fully your holy will.

Amen.

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

*Anglican Communion:*

*Ash Wednesday*

*The Diocese of East Carolina - The Episcopal Church*



**15 FEB**

**PRAYING WITH THE SITTINGBOURNE DEANERY**

Area Dean: Julian Staniforth

Lay Chair: Vacant

Secretary: Andrea Staniforth

Treasurer: David Gilbert

As we look ahead, we pray for a closer working between the parishes and benefices as they support and encourage ministry and mission, and learn to share resources. We pray for wisdom, particularly as we seek to discern the future shape of ministry for Sittingbourne town and the surrounding community villages. We pray for those parishes currently in interregnum, that the Lord will lead the appointment processes. We especially pray for incumbent clergy at this time, praying for strength and well-being.

*Anglican Communion:*

*The Diocese of North Carolina - The Episcopal Church*

**16 FEB**

**SITTINGBOURNE 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:

Christopher Baker, Pam Beckinsale, Jacky Davis, Tim Foreman, Colin Johnson, Ronni Lamont, Paul Longbottom, Ann Mackenzie, Ron Partridge, Sue Samson, Chris Shipley

*Anglican Communion:*

*The Diocese of South Carolina - The Episcopal Church*

**17 FEB**

**SITTINGBOURNE DEANERY 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 where ever they go.

Elisabeth Willmet, Struan Dunn, Paul Wintle, John Njoroge, Simon Young, Nicholas Ash

*Anglican Communion:*

*The Diocese of Upper South Carolina - The Episcopal Church*





God,  
this world can seem full of darkness and despair  
yet the days lengthen and light returns.

As we look forward to the new life of Easter,  
by your grace sustain us in hope  
for our planet,  
our humanity  
and our eternal future.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Prayer written by the Revd Dr Stephen Young - PTO Clergy in the Sandwich Deanery

*Anglican Communion:*

*1st Sunday of Lent*

*Quadragesima*

*Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan*

Please pray for the Ignite communities in the Sittingbourne Deanery. Praying particularly for our Ignite Enablers; Karen Sexton and Karen Burgess. May they be upheld and enthused in their ministry and mission. And we pray for all those who are involved, in what ever way. Please pray that each person will know that they are loved and valued, and may they find faith in the risen Lord, as friendships are shared, generosity offered and the joy of community experienced. Pray that the outreach of God's people will continually remind us of God's love for all.

*Anglican Communion:*

*The Diocese of Western North Carolina - The Episcopal Church*

**20 FEB**

**SITTINGBOURNE: PRAYING FOR DEANERY FRESH EXPRESSIONS AND MISSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES**

Please pray today for the Missional Learning communities and the Fresh Expressions of Church 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 Cashel, Ferns and Ossory - The Church of Ireland*

**21 FEB**

**PRAYING TOGETHER: JOURNEYING THROUGH LENT**



Lord Jesus, we pray that as we wind our way through the precarious course of life, ever dwelling on your truth and grace, that you might unite us through the Holy Spirit, bringing God closer to us, and us closer to the Father. Amen.

Prayer written by Revd Lawrence Tuck - Assistant Curate at Reculver: St Mary & Herne Bay: St Bartholomew w

Hoath: Holy Cross (Benefice)

*Anglican Communion:*

*The Diocese of Chandigarh - The Church of North India (United)*

**22 FEB**

**BORDEN: ST PETER & ST PAUL**

Clergy: Robert Lane

Assistant Curate: Jane Barker

Reader: Jill Petts

School: Borden CE Primary School

*Anglican Communion:*

*The Diocese of Chelmsford - The Church of England*

**23 FEB**

**EASTCHURCH WITH LEYSDOWN AND HARTY**

Clergy: Vacant

Churchwardens: Sue Hopper, Yvette Gutheil

School: Eastchurch CE Primary School

*Anglican Communion:*

*The Diocese of Chester - The Church of England*

**24 FEB**

**MILTON REGIS WITH MURSTON, BAPCHILD & TONGE**

Clergy: Robert Lane, Simon Young

Assistant Curate: Jane Barker

School: Bapchild & Tonge CE Primary School

Give thanks for church-school relationships already begun, and pray for the schools of Bapchild, Lansdowne and Sunnybank. Give thanks for the work of Churchwardens and ALMS, and for our Messy Church groups. Pray for those on the edges of the churches to have the courage to make a deeper commitment. Pray for growth in holiness, strength of faith, depth of understanding, and in numbers.

*Anglican Communion:*

*The Diocese of Chhattisgarh - The Church of North India (United)*

**25 FEB**

**PRAYING TOGETHER: 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT**



Lord God, as we gradually move deeper into Lent, may we deepen our relationship with you. In meditating on you and the promises you made to Abraham and to your people, may we develop a deepening understanding of, and trust in, your son Jesus Christ.

May his victory over sin and death challenge us to respond more faithfully to his calling, and to increase our resolve to sustain the poor and bind up

the broken-hearted in our damaged world.

Help us to concentrate on remaining focussed on this Lenten journey and so arrive at the cross prepared in heart and mind to hold the wounded Christ in open arms. Amen.

Prayer written by Sir Don Martin - Authorised Lay Minister at Woodnesborough: St Mary the Blessed Virgin (Parish)

*Anglican Communion: 2nd Sunday of Lent*

*The Anglican Church of Tanzania*

**26 FEB**

**SITTINGBOURNE WITH BOBBING**

Clergy: David Ridley, Sue Samson

Assistant Curate: Karen Burgess

Readers: Jan Phillips, Gill Price, Tracy Williams, Roxane Lee-Affonso

We give thanks and pray for the Wardens and members of the Churches of Holy Trinity Sittingbourne, St Bartholomew Bobbing and St Michael's Sittingbourne during this time of Vacancy. We pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance to discern, together with the Deanery, the will of God in determining the right ministerial leadership for our parishes as we go forward. We also pray for the future of the Ignite project at St Michael's, as the term of office of the two Enablers draws to an end.

*Anglican Communion:*

*The Diocese of Chicago - The Episcopal Church*

**27 FEB**

**THE SIX**

Clergy: Julian Staniforth, Amanda Lane

Assistant Curate: Nick Carpenter

Readers: George Hulme, Elisabeth Willmet

Anna Chaplain: Elisabeth Willmet

School: Hartlip Endowed CE Primary School, Newington CE Primary School

As we seek to serve and bless our communities, may we discern where the Spirit is at work, leading and calling us to engage in building relationships and partnerships. We pray especially for our relationships with the local primary schools, as we seek to develop with them creative ways of engaging with families with children building on current initiatives of Assembly on Sunday in Iwade & Stepping Stones in Newington. May our congregations have confidence to share the hope we have through our experience of Jesus in our lives.

*Anglican Communion:*

*The Diocese of Chichester - The Church of England*



Lord of all hopefulness,

we are too easily blinded by the day to day busyness of our lives.

Help us to look deeper into our hearts and follow your example more closely, rejecting false promises and easy answers as we journey through this time of reflection and repentance.

So that in so doing we might become nearer

to you.

Amen.

Prayer written by Heather Lister - Authorised Lay Minister at Westwell: St Mary

*Anglican Communion:*

*The Diocese of Chotanagpur - The Church of North India (United)*

Clergy: Alan Pinnegar, Richard Braddy

Assistant Curate: Paula Jardine-Rose

Readers: Pat Tatchell, John Vaughan, Clive Jacobs

Schools: Bredgar CE Primary School, Milstead & Frinstead CEPS, Tunstall CE Primary School

Pray for our ministry team today, as we face challenges maintaining services and pastoral work in and around the benefice, as well as regular engagement with schools, with reduced resources; we ask for discernment as we seek to identify new vocations within our congregations.

*Anglican Communion:*

*The Diocese of Christ the King - Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola*

# THE WONDER OF PRAYER



## EPIPHANY — AWAKENED TO SEE

*'On entering the house, they saw the child ...' (Matthew 2:11 NRSV)*

Jesus Christ, our morning star -

- Awaken us to see the beauty of your being among us.
- Awaken us to discover the treasure we carry and the gifts we have to offer.
- Awaken grace in us, in the combative atmosphere of a General Election.
- Awaken fresh ingenuity in international diplomacy, that wars may cease.
- Awaken in us your people a renewed determination to work for peace and reconciliation.





**Diocese of Canterbury**  
**CHANGED LIVES ➔ CHANGING LIVES**

**Jesus Christ,**

**Sun of Righteousness,**

**The darkness has never prevented your dawning in  
our world;**

**Wake us again to the wonder of your light;**

**That we may reflect rays of hope into shadowed  
places.**

**Amen.**

The Magi studied the stars: they stayed awake  
in the darkness, looking for signs. What might it  
mean for us to be awake to notice the signs of  
God's presence.

To sign up for regular updates from the Changing Lives  
Prayer Network, visit [canterburydiocese.org/prayer](https://canterburydiocese.org/prayer) or  
email [lbywater@diocant.org](mailto:lbywater@diocant.org)

Image: 'Revelation' by Primrose Northrop 2024





For more information about Wonder, visit  
[canterburydiocese.org/wonder](https://canterburydiocese.org/wonder)

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Cover painting: Primrose Northrop 'Forty days and nights' mixed media on cotton paper