



Thameshead Benefice

Prayer Diary

December 2024

**Bringing the light and joy of Christ into our communities;
that all may flourish**

December Benefice Prayer Diary

Sunday 1	Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Monday 2	<p>International Day for Abolition of Slavery God of compassion and mercy, just as you helped Aaron and Moses as they spoke boldly to Pharaoh on behalf of the Hebrew slaves in Egypt, help us speak up for modern slaves around the world and even in our own back yards. You gather the outcast, heal the broken hearted and bind up their wounds; please bring liberty and freedom to all whose lives are entangled in slavery and trafficking in our world today. Lift up the downtrodden and tread wickedness into the dust: We make our prayer through Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in perfect freedom, One God, now and forever.</p> <p>We pray for our schools, especially Sapperton, Kemble, Rodmarton, Deer Park and Kingshill Schools. We pray for wisdom and an openness to learning new things for both staff, students and governors.</p>
Tuesday 3	<p>On this International Day of Persons with Disability, we recognise we are all people who are made in the image and likeness of our loving God. We welcome all to our prayer, knowing that each of us brings unique gifts to share that reflect the beauty of our creator. We give thanks for God's holy presence among us, and for the chance to encounter God through each other.</p> <p>We pray for the Benefice Advent evening at Kemble</p>
Wednesday 4	Pray for our ministry team - Pepita, PTO; Karen and Liz, Lay Readers; David and Angie and all the Lay worship leaders; our Church Wardens and PCCs. Lord, may Your favour rest upon them and establish the work of their hands. Fill them with all joy and peace as they trust in You, so that they may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit

Thursday 5	<p>Today we remember the people who live and work in Somerford Keynes and Shorncote. We ask you to bless them in their work and play. We pray for those who are going through difficulties at present. We pray that we might all be channels of peace and blessing in our communities.</p>
Friday 6	<p>Father God, We pray for The Thameshead Benefice; that we may be truly united as we come together, whatever our background or culture, to worship you sharing our common belief and trust in You. We pray for peace, respect and unity as we seek to see Christ in each other, inspiring and encouraging each individual to express their love for You. May our churches be places of peace and safety, joy and love and full of your glory. Help us to share responsibility, grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need, reach out to others, and welcome newcomers and visitors. Fill us with vision and joy and keep us faithful in prayer, word and worship and help us to know and share how much each of us are loved by You. May we see your kingdom come here in the Thameshead Benefice, to the glory of your name.</p> <p>Father God, as we continue in vacancy, sustain those in interim leadership; give wisdom to those involved in the process of appointing a new priest; and guide us all in working out the future of The Thameshead Benefice.</p>
Saturday 7	<p>Pray for families beginning to plan for Christmas and for those who may be faced with spending the time alone. Pray especially for those who have lost loved ones during the year as Christmas is often a time when such loss is deeply felt.</p>
Sunday 8	<p>Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.</p>
Monday 9	<p>Let us pray today for any who are unwell at this time, those in hospital and those waiting for appointments, treatment or surgery. Pray for God to bring healing and</p>

	<p>comfort.</p> <p>We pray for all who are housebound, and pray that any contact from friends, neighbours and church will continue so that they know they are not alone.</p>
Tuesday 10	<p>Today we remember the people who live and work in Coates. We ask you to bless them in their work and play. We pray for those who are going through difficulties at present. We pray that we might all be channels of peace and blessing in our communities.</p> <p>We pray for the Benefice Advent evening at Frampton Mansell</p>
Wednesday 11	<p>We pray for all home groups, Bible study and prayer groups and TLC. May they form a firm fellowship with each other, supporting each other and learn to seek and share God in new ways.</p>
Thursday 12	<p>Heavenly Father, We lift up to You our prayers for economic stability and all those seeking employment. Grant wisdom and guidance to those in positions of economic influence, including those in our new government, that they may create opportunities for growth and prosperity. Comfort and support those who are searching for work, providing them with hope, perseverance, and the means to sustain themselves and their families. May they find meaningful employment and experience Your provision in their lives.</p>
Friday 13	<p>God of hope and transformation, who in our Lord Jesus Christ offers the gift of life in all its fullness, send your Holy Spirit and grant us joy in our following and vision in our leadership. May we be rich in imagination, confident in faith, and courageous in our engagement with the people and places of this diocese. As we share your life with the world, keep us rooted and grounded in love as we bear witness to your glory and pray for your Kingdom to come. Amen.</p>
Saturday 14	<p>Today we remember the people who live and work in Frampton Mansell. We ask you to bless them in their</p>

	work and play. We pray for those who are going through difficulties at present. We pray that we might all be channels of peace and blessing in our communities.
Sunday 15	God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.
Monday 16	Today we remember the people who live and work in Poole Keynes. We ask you to bless them in their work and play. We pray for those who are going through difficulties at present. We pray that we might all be channels of peace and blessing in our communities.
Tuesday 17	We pray for all our volunteers in our church families (cleaners, flower arrangers , grounds people, organists and bell ringers) and pray that more people will join them, even if just for a short time. We pray for the Benefice Advent evening at Sapperton
Wednesday 18	We pray for peace in the world, an end to conflicts, and places where people can live in peace with their neighbour. We pray for all those living in war torn countries and unable to escape. Lord, help them find a safe place to go, and we give thanks for all those trying to help and bring hope.
Thursday 19	We pray for on our electoral rolls and the members of our congregations; that they may know God's presence, peace and unending love today and always. Almighty God, you delight in growth, Fill us with your Holy Spirit, So that our churches may grow spiritually and in numbers. Give us confidence to reach out to others so that the communities in which we live and work may know the power of your transforming love. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
Friday 20	Heavenly Father, We lift up new believers and seekers to You, asking for Your guidance and protection as they begin their spiritual journey. Surround them with Your

	<p>love, strengthen their faith, and fill them with the knowledge of Your truth. May they find joy and peace in Your presence, and may their hearts be open to the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.</p> <p>We pray for all who do not yet know the love of God. We pray that the Lord will open their minds to the Gospel and remove their spiritual blindness and that they will come to know God's transforming love.</p>
Saturday 21	<p>Let us pray for an end to the waste and desecration of God's creation; for access to the fruits of creation to be shared equally among all people and for communities and nations to find sustenance in the fruits of the earth and water God has given us.</p>
Sunday 22	<p>Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.</p>
Monday 23	<p>Pray for our Farming communities and all who provide food for us to eat; Bless them as they sow crops and care for livestock. Surround them with your love so they may know they are cared for and valued. Help us to be thankful for the food they produce and not to waste it. Pray for those who do not have enough to eat and for the local Foodbank . We pray for people in our community and beyond who are facing unemployment, ill-health, isolation or money worries at this time, and especially for those who are unable to afford enough to eat.</p>
Tuesday 24	<p>Today we remember the people who live and work in Kemble and Ewen. We ask you to bless them in their work and play. We pray for those who are going through difficulties at present. We pray that we might all be channels of peace and blessing in our communities.</p> <p>Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your</p>

	glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Wednesday 25	<p>On this Christmas Day let us rejoice that God sent his Son to be our Saviour and, in all our celebrations with family and friends, and let us take time to praise and worship him. Pray especially for any who will be spending Christmas alone.</p> <p>Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.</p>
Thursday 26	Grant, O Lord, that in all our sufferings here upon earth, for the testimony of thy truth, we may steadfastly look up to heaven, and by faith behold the glory that shall be revealed; and, being filled with the Holy Ghost, may learn to love and bless our persecutors by the example of thy first Martyr Saint Stephen, who prayed for his murderers to thee, O blessed Jesus, who standest at the right hand of God to succour all those that suffer for thee, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen
Friday 27	We pray for our children and young people and their families; that they may feel a sense of family and belonging through the groups they attend. We pray for Luke and the work of Sportily and the new youth club, for Cadie and Little Fishes and Source Seekers, for Juliette and Liz and Wild and Messy Church and the Open the Book team. Lord, bless and guide the leaders and inspire more people to step forward and teach the next generation how to lead and love others in Your name. Strengthen and equip them to show Your love to the precious children in their communities.
Saturday 28	Today we remember the people who live and work in Rodmarton and Tarlton. We ask you to bless them in their work and play. We pray for those who are going through difficulties at present. We pray that we might all be channels of peace and blessing in our communities.
Sunday 29	God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the

	nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.
Monday 30	We pray for communication within the Thameshead Benefice, asking for God's wisdom and clarity to guide our words and actions and help us to listen with open hearts, speak with love and understanding, and foster unity and harmony among all.
Tuesday 31	<p>Prayer for the New Year</p> <p>God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose years never fail and whose mercies are new each returning day: let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives, warming our hearts and giving light to our minds; that we may pass the coming year in joyful obedience and firm faith; through him who is the beginning and the end, your Son, Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.</p> <p>Amen.</p> <p>John Wycliffe, reformer, 1384</p> <p>Give thanks for all the blessings we have received this past year and pray for God to continue to bless us all during the coming year, both as individuals, as families and as church, the body of Christ.</p>

If you would like these prayers sent to you each day via WhatsApp, please contact Liz on 07774104990