

## Diocese of Chester Cycle of Prayer

**Sunday, 28 November to Saturday, 25 December 2021**

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**Sunday, 28 November 2021**

First Sunday of Advent

Today is traditionally Stir-up Sunday and the question of 'How many shopping days until Christmas?' is already being asked in the media.

Whilst the pudding, cake-making and present buying is important, I am asking myself the question 'How many days before Advent?' Well in fact it is only seven days to go!

So, in the next seven days, why not start to prepare to give God some time this Advent, possibly more time than usual, and to ask Him what He wants from you in 2022. There are some great books and resources available to help you.

My personal goal this Advent is to give Jesus time: reading scripture, praying silently or maybe walking, asking Him to direct me in 2022.

Can I invite you to ponder this Advent what Jesus is calling you to in 2022? It may be to continue what you are currently doing, or maybe something new. The disciples were young men. Some of us are a bit older but Jesus calls us whatever stage of life we are.

So yes, do the Christmas preparations and the shopping, but also take time this Advent. Can I leave this invitation with you to ponder?

Jonathon Green – Director of Foxhill House.

*Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil*

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**Monday, 29 November 2021**

**0703 Liscard the Resurrection**

C: Peter Cooper, Elaine White, Chris Turner.

*Idoani, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Tuesday, 30 November 2021**

**Andrew the Apostle**

**0704 Liscard St Thomas**

C: Robert Nelson.

*Ife, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Wednesday, 1 December 2021**

**0705 New Brighton St James with Emmanuel**

C: Heather Atkinson. LM: Ron Jones, Liz Cooper-Clark, Mike Collins.

*Ife East, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Thursday, 2 December 2021**

**0708 Poulton**

C: Peter Cooper, Elaine White, Chris Turner, LM: Rob Woodburn.

*Ifo, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Friday, 3 December 2021**

**0709 Seacombe**

C: Peter Cooper, Elaine White, Chris Turner. LM: John Riddiough.

*Igbomina, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Saturday, 4 December 2021**

**0710 Wallasey St Hilary**

C: Alan Ward, Richard Avery. LM: Catherine Godfrey, John Tomkins, Valerie Sparks, Caroline Houghton.

We give thanks for the renewed opportunities with schools, children and families, and ask for God's guidance on future vision.

*Igbomina – West, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Sunday, 5 December 2021**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

'Now there was man in Jerusalem called Simeon who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel.'

Simeon, who appears in Luke chapter 2, is a favourite of many Christians. Like many faithful Jewish people of the day he longed for the comfort of God. We don't know that his life was particularly hard, but like all of us he lived in a world that cried out for the forgiveness, healing and peace that God brings. The prophets spoke of the comfort that God's Messiah would bring and devout Jews prayed 'May I see the consolation of Israel. So here is Simeon bustling around Jerusalem, living his daily life, going to the shops, visiting his family, and all the time his heart is invested in the promises of God. With every frustration he prays to God: 'God please send your comforter forgive our sins, heal our wounds, bring your justice, restore all that we have lost.' And then one day, moved by the Spirit, he went to the Temple and there he saw his comfort, the salvation of God, in the person of the infant Jesus.

Today, the second Sunday of Advent is one on which Christians have traditionally remembered the prophets, who looked forward to the coming of the Messiah. Their words bring solid and lasting hope, the certainty of things foretold.

God promises comfort through the prophets but we have their words more certain because with Simeon, we can see the Messiah himself, the one who fulfils on these promises. Whatever causes you to feel helpless or hopeless, today we remember the promise of the coming comforter.

Peter Froggatt, Director of Outreach

*The Anglican Church of Burundi*

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**Monday, 6 December 2021**

**0711 Wallasey St Nicholas**

C: Jeff Staples. LM: Louise Jones.

Loving God, we thank You for the example of St Nicholas,  
who fed the hungry, brought hope to the Imprisoned,  
gave comfort to the lost, and taught the truth to all.  
May we strive to imitate him by putting You first in all we do.  
Give us the courage, love and strength of St. Nicholas,  
so that, like him, we may serve  
you through loving our brothers and sisters.

*Ihiala, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Tuesday, 7 December 2021**

**0712 Moreton**

C: Graham Cousins, Debbi Stott, Betty Turner. LM: Jane Fisher, Lindsey Lawrence.

Moreton CofE School.

*Ijebu, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Wednesday, 8 December 2021**

**Mottram Deanery**

*Ijebu – North, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Thursday, 9 December 2021**

**1601 Dukinfield St John**

C: Tim Hayes, Chris Viney, LM: Pat Bradshaw, Stuart Philips.

Dukinfield St John's CofE School.

*Ijebu South West, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Friday, 10 December 2021**

**1603 Dukinfield St Mark**

C: Karl Williams, Jenny Dunlop. LM: Chantelle Tunnicliffe.

*Ijesa North East, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Saturday, 11 December 2021**

**1604 Gee Cross**

C: Helen Scarisbrick, Katie Wade. LM: Wendy Stockton, Wendy Slinger.

Gee Cross Holy Trinity CofE School.

*Ijesha North, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Sunday, 12 December 2021**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

Have you ever felt overshadowed by someone? Maybe it was a colleague, a friend or a member of the family, but many of us have had that experience of feeling like we've been a bit elbowed out of the spotlight by someone else. Many of us do want some of the attention at least some of the time – and it's easy to feel angry or frustrated when it happens. Today is the Sunday in Advent when we remember John the Baptist as one of the many people who prepare the way for Jesus. John was clearly the sort of character you wouldn't think of as being easily ignored – but one of the most striking things about his ministry is that he specifically says that his ministry is not about himself but about Jesus, the one he says must increase while John must decrease. John is often depicted in art as pointing away from himself and towards Jesus.

It's not easy to do this – there's a very good documentary called *20 Feet from Stardom*, about people whose job is to sing backing vocals. Many of them talk honestly about the fact that it's not easy (especially when you may be a technically much more accomplished singer than the person out front) to take the back seat, to take the supportive role that's not drawing attention to itself. Yet if, perhaps, we can know truly and deeply that we are loved and valued by God for who we are, maybe like John we can find the grace and humility accept that it's not about us. How are we, today, called to let go of jostling for the spotlight and point others towards Jesus?

Simon Chesters, Director of Ministry

*The Anglican Church of Canada*

**Monday, 13 December 2021**

**1606 Hattersley**

C: Denise Hayes. LM: Pam Whittaker.

Dear Father, we thank and praise You for Your grace and mercy, for the truth that You are always with us and that You will lead us forward. As we face major changes we ask that You would give us courage and guidance. Fill us we pray with Your Holy Spirit so we may serve You faithfully, helping the lost to find You; the broken Your healing; the hurting Your grace and all Your love in Jesus' name Amen.

*Ijumu, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Tuesday, 14 December 2021**

**1607 Hollingworth**

C: Bruce Perrin. LM: Joyce Blundell, Stephen Cook, Janet Malpas.

Please pray that as we continue to come out of the restrictions of the pandemic Jesus will build his church. That we will hear, see and do the things that he has in mind to see his kingdom come in the Longdendale Valley.

*Ikara, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Wednesday, 15 December 2021**

**1608 Hyde St George with St Thomas**

C: Jeremy Bentliff, Callum Boothroyd. LM: Barbara Hollington, David Hollington, Marjorie Trueman, Susan Nykorak, Diane Deakins.

Hyde St George's CofE School.

*Ikeduru, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Thursday, 16 December 2021**

**1611 Millbrook**

C: Tim Hayes, Chris Viney.

*Ikka, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Friday, 17 December 2021**

**1612 Mottram-in-Longdendale**

C: Cait Walker. LM: Allen Standeven.

Broadbottom CofE School.

*Ikwerre, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Saturday, 18 December 2021**

**1613 Newton in Mottram with Flowery Field**

C: Sheila O'Flaherty. LM: C: Linda Marshall, Sara Burgess.

*Ikwo, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Sunday, 19 December 2021**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

We have a week to go as we journey towards Christmas.

What's your favourite thing about Christmas? Is it the gatherings with friends and family or in church, the food, or maybe giving and receiving presents?

I really enjoy these things but this is the opportunity to read the gospel accounts of the true message of Christmas, the obedience of Joseph and Mary and the message of the angels. Second, it is to enjoy the carols sung in our churches, on the radio and on television. My favourite carol is In the Bleak Mid-winter. I first sang this as a child in a small country church in the Isle of Man which was lit by oil lamps and candles and where it was played on a pump organ. The words still take me back to those days:

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,

Breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,  
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

(Christina Rossetti)

These words for me, sung every Christmas, remind me that whilst we busy ourselves with all our Christmas preparations we are invited to give Jesus our heart afresh this Christmas.

Happy Christmas,

Jonathon Green – Director of Foxhill.

*The Church of the Province of Central Africa*

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**Monday, 20 December 2021**

**1615 Stalybridge Holy Trinity**

C: Gary Kennaugh, Simon Stride. LM: David Monday, Barry Edge, Clive Hustwick, Chris Gascoigne.

We would value prayer for:

Faithful witness to Christ

Continuing to welcome new people to the church family

Our church planting initiative and for wisdom and grace in proceeding

Our children's and youth ministry and new leaders to join the team

Our CAP and Foodbank ministries to continue to bless those in most need

For 2022 to bear much fruit for the Kingdom.

*Ikwuano, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Tuesday, 21 December 2021**

**St Thomas**

**1616 Stalybridge St Paul**

C: Emma Handley. LM: Jacintha Manchester, John Clements.

We pray for ongoing and new engagement with our non-churched families through our schools work and Messy Church. Thank you, God, that so many have stayed connected throughout the pandemic but give us insight into how we can engage better with our wider community which has high levels of deprivation and social need. Amen.

Stalybridge St Paul's CofE School.

*Ilaje, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Wednesday, 22 December 2021**

**1617 Tintwistle**

C: Bruce Perrin. LM: Joyce Blundell.

Please pray that as we continue to come out of the restrictions of the pandemic Jesus will build his church. That we will hear, see and do the things that he has in mind to see his kingdom come in the Longdendale Valley.

Tintwistle CofE School.

*Ile – Oluji, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Thursday, 23 December 2021**  
**Wirral North Deanery**

*Ilesa, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Friday, 24 December 2021**

**Christmas Eve**

**0801 Barnston**

C: Vacant, Chris Murphy. LM: Carol Jordan, Lynn Alexander, David Reed, Eileen Hindley, Chrissie Irlam, David Williams, Ann Vassie, Marjorie Burden, Jane McCallum.

Dear heavenly father, we pray for the life and ministry of the parish as it prepares for a period of time without any stipendiary clergy. We pray for the new incumbent, Chris Slater and his wife, Imogen, and sons, Isaac and Ezra as they move into the parish, may they settle in quickly. We pray also for the associate minister Chris Murphy, as he takes a sabbatical with his wife, Verity, and sons, Josiah and Jago. May the sabbatical be a refreshing time for them all. We pray also for the parish that it would thrive even in the absence of its clergy and that the gospel would continue to be proclaimed in Barnston and Pensby, in Jesus' name, Amen.

*Ilesa South West, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

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**Saturday, 25 December 2021**

**Christmas Day**

**0802 Bebington**

C: David Vestergaard, Al Rodgers. LM: David Jack, Amy Haigh, Ian Halliday, Judith Battersby, Helen Thomas.

Please pray for St Andrew's Townfield, that our witness through Christmas services and events will have been effective, and for the people we have been in contact with through this time as they reflect on what they have seen and heard.

Bebington St Andrew CofE sSchool.

*North East India, The (united) Church of North India*

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