CALENDAR OF PRAYER

‘Praying for each other; praying with each other’

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 ‘Madonna and Child’, watercolour and pastels on recycled paper

December 2023
1 DEC  
**PRAYING WITH THANET DEANERY: IGNITE HUB**

Please pray for the Ignite communities in the Thanet Deanery. May they be upheld and enthused in their ministry and mission. And we pray for all those who are involved, in whatever 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 Bangor - The Church in Wales*

2 DEC  
**PRAYING WITH THANET DEANERY: MISSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY**

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 Banks and Torres - The Anglican Church of Melanesia*
30 Dec  Praying with the Stour Valley Deanery: Its Clergy and People

Area Dean: Vacant
Lay Chair: Caroline Knight
Secretary: Vacant
Treasurer: Nigel Poole

We pray and give thanks for those who continue to work on our Deanery plan as it nears its completion and as we continue to discern God’s plan for our Deanery and its future growth; and we continue to pray for revitalisation and continued team as we strive to implement our plans across our Deanery. In times of change, we continue to pray specifically for 9 of our churches as we pray for candidates to fill the two vacancies we currently have in our Deanery. We give thanks and ask for God’s blessing on all those who have supported and continue to support the parishes during this time.

Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Bondo - The Anglican Church of Kenya

31 Dec  Praying with the Stour Valley 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:

Garth Barber, Brian Chalmers, William Hill, Dylan Turner

Anglican Communion:
1st Sunday of Christmas
Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda

3 Dec  Praying Together: 1st Sunday of Advent

Heavenly Father, as we approach and prepare for the season of Advent, as we plan for the festivities and all that is involved, presents, trimming trees, friends and family gatherings, we remember and pray for our brothers and sisters in so many places in our world, who will not find the season of Advent one of hope, peace, comfort and joy.

For so many, Advent will pass as days on the calendar with no significance.

In our busyness, we ask for your Holy presence in remembering to pray for them, and hope that your Holy Spirit will give them hope and comfort in the midst of their sadness and suffering.

In a world where violence, poverty and injustice seem more and more the norm than the anomaly, we pray that we may be instruments of your peace and healing.

We pray in the name of Your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
Amen.

Prayer written by Barbara Campbell - parishioner from Cranbrook: St Dunstan

Anglican Communion:
Advent 1

The Church of North India (United)

4 Dec  Birchington: All Saints with Acol: St Mildred & St Thomas, Minnis Bay

Clergy: Mark Ham
Reader: Margaret Hawkins
Anna Chaplain: Loraine Bant
School: Birchington CE Primary School

We give thanks for ‘Breakfast Time’ with our local primary school. Giving thanks for the outreach we are able to offer and the relationships we can share. Pray too for our Supper Club which provides a warm place and food for children, parents and carers. And today we pray especially for our ‘Pastoral Friends’ who provide coffee mornings twice a month and a monthly lunch, giving thanks for their generosity and tireless work.
Amen.

Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Barbados - The Church in the Province of the West Indies
5 Dec | Broadstairs: Holy Trinity
Clergy: Dominic Fenton
Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Bari - The Church of Nigeria

6 Dec | Harvest New Anglican Church
Churchwardens: Margaret Vafeas, Jann Gilliland
Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Baringo - The Anglican Church of Kenya

7 Dec | Praying Together: Advent Reflections
God our searching
In Christ you guide with the light of your presence
us through this season of Advent;
be with us in the changing experiences of our lives.
Born as a homeless stranger, be with those who have no place to call home
dispossessed as refugee be with those who flee fear and persecution
in all the confusion and disruption of our lives
help is to see hope and promise in all around us
strengthen us for the journey on the path before us
and give us courage to act in ways that will lead to peace.
Amen.
Prayer written by Canon Andrew Dodd - Canon Treasurer at Canterbury Cathedral
Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Barisal - The Church of Bangladesh

8 Dec | Margate: All Saints (Westbrook)
Clergy: Vacant
Churchwardens: Ray Hand, Richard Wheeler
Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Barrackpore - The Church of North India (United)

28 Dec | Praying Together: For Our Mission Partnership
Lord Jesus, you no longer call us strangers but friends – companions in your mission of love, peace and hope. You invite us into community with you and others.
Thank you for our mission partnership with the Anglican Church in Madagascar. Thank you for our brothers and sisters in Christ* as together we give thanks for your re-birth in all our hearts and communities, this Christmastime.
Amen.
*Please pray for the Madagascan bishops and their people: Bishop Jaona of Antananarivo; Bishop Joaminidy of Antsiranana; Bishop Gilbert of Fianarantsoa; Bishop Hall of Mahajanga; Bishop Jean-Paul of Toamasina and Bishop Samitiana of Toliara.
Prayer request written by Revd Carol Smith - Canterbury Overseas Group Chair
Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Boga - Province de L'Eglise Anglaise Du Congo

29 Dec | Westgate-On-Sea: St Saviour
Clergy: Vacant
Churchwardens: Christine Attwood, Andrew Jemmett
Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Bolivia - The Anglican Church of South America
26 DEC — WANTSUM GROUP
Clergy: Vacant
Reader: Sally Willins
Churchwardens: Sue Hergest, David Blackwell, David Mairs, Paul Budgie
Schools: Chislet CE Primary School, Minster CE Primary School, Monkton CE Primary School, St Nicholas at Wade CE Primary School
Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Blackburn - The Church of England

27 DEC — WESTGATE-ON-SEA: ST JAMES
Clergy: Anand Sodadasa

We would like to express our gratitude to God for the new Family Service that we initiated in our church back in April. We have received a positive response from young families, starting with 4 families and now having 7 families consistently attending, with a total of 25 individuals joining us. The attendance for the main adult service ranges from 40 to 50, resulting in a total of 70 attendees across the two services. Please pray for us to reach our target of 80 people in our congregation.

We also ask for prayers that the newcomers to our church would experience growth in their faith and spiritual maturity.

Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Bo - The Church of the Province of West Africa

9 DEC — MARGATE: HOLY TRINITY
Clergy: Vacant
Churchwarden: Michael Jarvis
Local preacher: Sue Woan, Dawn Watson
Reader-in-Training: Ann Friedlos

Please join us in praying for a fruitful interregnum that will culminate in the appointment of a God-given minister. We give thanks for our new daytime Bible study group that meets at church on Thursdays, eagerly exploring the Gospel of Mark. Holy Trinity Margate is attached to a Centre for the community, comprising a café and rooms. We give thanks for all the regular activities and volunteers, including the new Friendship Group initiated by Margaret, our Parish Nurse. Please pray for those who come into the building to experience the peace of God and the love of Jesus Christ.

Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Bath and Wells - The Church of England

10 DEC — PRAYING TOGETHER: 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Anglican Communion:
The Church of Pakistan (United)

Loving God,*
As we await the coming of our Lord we pray for time to stand at the crossroads and look,
to ask for guidance along ancient paths,
the good ways where we can walk and find rest for our souls
despite the busyness around us.

Help us to listen for your voice and direction in everything we do.
In Jesus name,
Amen.

*Based on Jeremiah 6:16
Prayer written by Revd Susan Manners - Assistant Curate at the Stour Downs Parish
Anglican Communion:
Advent 2
The Church of Pakistan (United)
11 Dec
Margate: St John the Baptist

Clergy: Vacant
Churchwardens: Ann Smith, Simon Love,
School: Holy Trinity & St John’s CE Primary School
Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Bathurst - The Anglican Church of Australia

12 Dec
Margate: St Paul (Cliftonville)

Clergy: Steve Coney
Reader Kim Palmer

Here at St Paul’s we are praying for God’s leading and blessing as we seek to serve our local community and witness to the love of God.
We are in a time of vacancy in our parish and so we ask for your prayers: for faithfulness, encouragement, unity and love.
This winter we pray especially for those who will use our church building and community centre for friendship, food bank, and other outreach services, and for our Ignite community. We pray that each person may find a welcome, and that together we will see signs of God’s kingdom.

Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Bauchi - The Church of Nigeria

24 Dec
Praying Together: 4th Sunday of Advent

Father God, be with us as the last few hours of Advent pass by. May we reflect the faithfulness of Mary and Joseph travelling to Bethlehem, the joy of the shepherds and the trust of the Magi journeying to the stable.
Let us give thanks and welcome the birth of our Saviour.
Help us to enjoy but not to be distracted by the tinsel, treats and turkey, so that our hearts and minds are truly ready for your Son to enter our lives anew on Christmas Day.
Amen.
Prayer written by Amanda Boucherat - Co-Chair of the Diocesan Mission & Ministry Framework
Anglican Communion:
Advent 4
The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

25 Dec
Praying Together: Christmas Day

Gracious God,
Your light has shone in the world through the birth of your Son our Saviour, the Light of Life.
Help us to walk always in His light and live His life that His brightness may shine through us and give light to a darkened world.

This we ask in His name.
Amen.
Prayer written by Revd Perry Butler - PTO Priest in the Canterbury Deanery
Anglican Communion:
Christmas Day
The Diocese of Birmingham - The Church of England
**22 Dec**  
**ST ANDREW, READING STREET**

Clergy: Philip Musindri  
Reader: Michael Hawthorne  

Give thanks for our Vicar Philip and pray for him in his Parish, Area Dean and Canonical responsibilities. Pray for us as we seek to disciple the adults and teenagers who have recently come to faith that we will have adequate leadership capacity. Pray for the light of Christ to shine as we reach out to our community this Christmas through Parent and toddler group; Sunday School; Messy Church; School Assemblies and Christmas worship. Pray that our congregations may press into God and develop their relationship with Him this advent.  

*Anglican Communion:*  
*The Diocese of Bida - The Church of Nigeria*

**23 Dec**  
**ST LAURENCE-IN-TANET BENEFICE**

Clergy: Ken Cox  
Readers: Sue Cox, Judith Andrews, Frances Barnes, Amanda Madgwick  
Anna Chaplain: Judith Andrews, Amanda Madgwick  

Father God. We thank and praise you for all you are doing in the Parish of St Laurence. For our leadership team who are faithfully serving during the vacancy and for all those who keep our 5 churches warm and welcoming. As we look to celebrate the gift of Your Son, our saviour this Christmas, we ask for your continued blessing on our church family and those who join us at this special time. Looking ahead into 2024, we pray that the right person hears your call to join us in our ministry in this Parish. In the name of Christ, Amen.  

*Anglican Communion:*  
*The Diocese of Biharamulo - The Anglican Church of Tanzania*

**13 Dec**  
**ST PETER-IN-TANET**

Clergy: Matt Hodder  
Assistant Curate: Alice Bates  
Schools: St Georges CE Foundation School and St Peter in Thanet CE Junior School  

As we give thanks for the coming of our new Priest-in-Charge, please pray that God will renew our vision and reveal the new paths ahead: especially for our growing children's work through the Toddlers group, Children's Church and Sunday Praise family services, and our developing outreach to local schools. Please also pray for our distinctive Midweek communion ministry and the new approaches we're developing in prayer, that we may see Christ working among us in ways we never imagined, opening doors we never knew were there, so we may help to make God real to those around us.  

*Anglican Communion:*  
*The Diocese of Belize - The Church in the Province of the West Indies*

**14 Dec**  
**PRAYING TOGETHER: ADVENT REFLECTIONS**

Oh Lord, oh Lord, how lovely is your presence among us.  

As we resurrect our Christmas trees, may the evergreen serve as a reminder of God’s presence ever with us. At St Luke’s Maidstone we have been reflecting on the wooden manger, Jesus the carpenter, building the kingdom and the wooden cross where Jesus reclaimed our hearts for relationship with God.  

Oh Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree how lovely are your branches that remind us of your love for us, ever present. As we journey through Advent let us reclaim the symbol of the Christmas tree for Christ. Amen.  

Prayer written by Revd Hollie Butler - Assistant Curate  

at St Luke’s, Maidstone  

*Anglican Communion:*  
*The Diocese of Bendigo - The Anglican Church of Australia*
15 Dec Margate: St Philip (Northdown Park)
Clergy: Stuart Gay
Reader: Helen Rogers
Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Beni - Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

16 Dec Ramsgate: Christ Church
Clergy: Vacant
Churchwarden: Vacant
School: Christ Church CE Primary School
Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Benin - The Church of Nigeria

17 Dec Praying Together: 3rd Sunday of Advent
Spirit, draw us close to the crib
Into the story of life itself,
Beckon us onward towards the Christ Child,
This infant, this human, All that is God.
The mystery of birth again opens up,
Creation resounds with one simple breath,
With thanks we await the most precious gift
Revealing, each moment, All that is God.
Amen.
Prayer written by Marianne Hambrook - Diocesan PA to the Director of Mission & Ministry & Senior Administrator
Anglican Communion:
Advent 3
The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

18 Dec Ramsgate: Holy Trinity
Clergy: Angus Beattie
School: Holy Trinity CE Primary School
Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Bentiu - Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

19 Dec Ramsgate: St George
Clergy: Paul Worledge
Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Bermuda (Extra Provincial)

20 Dec Ramsgate: St Luke
Clergy: Paul Worledge
Assistant Curate: Claire Coleman
Reader: Colin Gale
Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Bethlehem - The Episcopal Church

21 Dec Praying Together: Advent Reflections
Heavenly Father we thank you that from the moment of the dawning of time when you said, 'let there be light', your presence and power has shone in the darkness. Thank you that the light of your love has been at work in this beautiful world you created for us to enjoy and in your unfolding plan of salvation. This Advent as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World, in the stable in Bethlehem, help us to share that light with others that they too may come to know him as Lord and Saviour.
Amen.
Prayer written by Ruth Jones - Licensed Lay Minister at Folkestone: St John the Baptist
Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Bhopal - The Church of North India (United)