1 Jan Praying Together: New Year

Almighty and everlasting God,

As we begin a New Year, perhaps with mixed feelings of expectation and concern, thank you that although the years change, we can trust in your eternal changelessness.

We look forward to “the Heavenly Country Bright”, where no created light is needed and we long for our own Epiphany – a manifestation of Christ; a revelation of Jesus, just as You appeared to the Magi and to your disciples.

Grant us courage, peace and hope that comes from faith and trust in You, our Saviour and Lord of the years, who is the same forever. Amen.

Prayer written by Robert Grieve - Licensed Lay Minister at St John’s, Folkestone

Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Bar - Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

2 Jan Stour Valley 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.

Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Botswana - The Church if the Province of Central Africa

3 Jan Chatham and Upper Hardes with Stelling

Clergy: Louise Vincer
Pastoral Assistant: Angela Hirst

We give thanks for the friendships that have been built up during the life of this benefice and for the support for mission that has been shared, particularly amongst the churchwarden team. Please pray that the process of pastoral reorganisation that both parishes are going through will lead to new appointments and renewed hope.

Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Brandon - The Anglican Church of Canada
4 JAN  KING’S WOOD BENEFICE

Clergy: Vacant

Reader: Gerry Willis

Churchwardens: Geoff Jenkins, David Potter, George Kennedy, Maureen Taylor, Tony Denne, Roz Waller Goodenough, Doug Pavey, Gail Pavey

School: St Mary’s Church of England Primary School

Pray today for the King’s Wood Benefice as we begin the year going into an interregnum. As we do so, please pray for all involved in the process to search for a new minister, especially the Churchwardens and the Benefice Representatives as they work together to compile a Benefice Profile. Heavenly Father, Guide us in our search for a new Priest to minister here in our benefice of King’s Wood. Give to us all wisdom, an openness to your will and a clear focus to sustain our future and grow your church. May we truly be… a valued presence in our communities, a place where everyone can belong and be loved, and a place to find peace and to find God. We pray for a priest to hear and respond to your call. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Brechin - The Scottish Episcopal Church

5 JAN  THE UNITED WYE BENEFICE

Clergy: Ravi Holy, Linda Cross

Readers: Maureen Burnham, Kevin Rall, Clare Masters, Lucy Carvill

Reader-in-Training: Nigel Poole

School: Bodsham Church of England Primary School

We give thanks for signs of growth and new life across our benefice: the reinvigoration of the child-friendly Not the 10 o clock service and the launch of a new informal service called SEED in Wye; for the increasing number of families and children taking part in the life and worship of Brook church and (hopefully) the successful appointment of a new associate priest to look after the 4 - and soon to be 6 - churches ‘up the hill’. Please also pray for the growth of our new Forest Church.

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Brisbane - The Anglican Church of Australia
Lord Jesus Christ
Your light was never removed.
As I reflect upon my days,
You have always presented and represented me
When I thought I stood alone.
Thank you for the years of waiting.

I see their value partially revealed.
I too have held you and prayed over you.
In all that time unknown to my hungry eye.
It was in quietude you came.

Prayer written by Revd Peter Richmond - PTO in the Canterbury Deanery

**Anglican Communion:**

**Epiphany**

**The Diocese of Bristol - The Church of England**

**7 JAN  MAIDSTONE DEANERY**

Area Dean: Gareth Dickinson
Lay Chair: Fiona Higgs
Secretary: Vacant
Treasurer: Susan Ghinn
School: St Augustine Academy

**Anglican Communion:**

**1st Sunday of Epiphany**

**The Scottish Episcopal Church**
8 Jan PRAYING TOGETHER: FOR EACH OTHER

Loving God,

We pray for our Diocese and all those who make it a family in your glorious name, knowing you are with us all at all times.

Graciously give each person in every Parish, Benefice, Deanery and Archdeaconry the knowledge that they are held in your loving embrace as they face the challenges ahead.

Please grant each one of us understanding, gratitude, patience, courage and strength to do your work so that we can spread your message of hope, joy and love.

Amongst the stillness of the winter, please help us see the signs that you gift us with of spring and growth that lie ahead in your world of loving Grace.

In Jesus’ name

Amen.

Prayer written by Jacquie Town - Personal Assistant to the Diocesan Director of Ordinands

*Anglican Communion:*

_The Diocese of British Columbia - The Anglican Church of Canada_

9 Jan MAIDSTONE 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:

- Richard Birch
- Clinton Davis
- Priscilla Doe
- Alisoun Francis
- Kes Grant
- Joy Green
- David Grimwood
- David Jones
- Peter Maurice
- Adie McCall
- Brian Stevenson
- Colin Terry
- Julian Waite
- Liz Walker
- Robin Williamson

*Anglican Communion:*

_The Diocese of Central Buganda - The Church of the Province of Uganda_
10 JAN MAIDSTONE 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.

Clifford Goble, Nicola Mitra, Sue Yeo, Susie-Alexandra Simpson, Geoffrey Burn, Erika Catchpole

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of West Buganda - The Church of the Province of Uganda

11 JAN MAIDSTONE IGNITE HUB

Please pray for the Ignite communities in the Maidstone Deanery. Praying particularly for our Ignite Enabler; Angela Frost. May she be upheld and enthused in her 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 Buhiga - The Anglican Church of Burundi

12 JAN ALLINGTON: ST NICHOLAS WITH MAIDSTONE: ST PETER

Clergy: Vacant

Churchwardens: Nigel Smetham, Jennifer Stone

Anna Chaplain: Erika Catchpole

Prayer co-ordinator: Angela Redford

We give thanks for the prayers and support of our whole congregation during our Interregnum. We pray that we will continue to listen to the Holy Spirit guiding us as we go through the selection process for a new Incumbent. We pray for wisdom, discernment and God’s blessing as we continue to hold the church in readiness to move forward in 2024. We pray that the Lord will have prepared the right person to join us in bringing the light of the Gospel to Allington. We thank the Lord for His love & blessings towards us.

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Bujumbura - The Anglican Church of Burundi
13 Jan - Loose: All Saints

Clergy: Steve Price, Chris Thom

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Bukavu - Province de L'Eglise Anglican Du Congo

14 Jan - Maidstone: All Saints with St Philip with St Stephen (Tovil)

Clergy: John Richardson

School: Archbishop Courtenay CE Primary School

Pray with us today as we give thanks for the successful Community Cafe on Saturdays, which has been running since September and which we plan to run until Easter. It has been well supported by the congregations and the community.

At St. Philip’s, study groups continue to flourish on Tuesdays, as well as a ‘Well-being’ Choir.

At Stephen’s the more informal monthly service is growing, and links with Archbishop Courtenay School continue to deepen through Collective Worship and the Dove Club (formerly Godly Play) on Tuesdays. Pastoral relationships with members of staff and volunteers are maturing and opportunities for conversations are endless.

We are preparing for a major Christian Festival ‘Celebrating Life’ from June 21st to 30th at All Saints.

Anglican Communion:

2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Church of the Province of South East Asia

15 Jan - Praying Together: For Bubble Church Communities

Please pray for three benefices in the diocese who have successfully applied to be part of the pilot scheme for Bubble Church, a Sunday church service especially for babies, toddlers, and young families. It's a puppet-packet, Jesus-centred, coffee and food fuelled, 30-minute kids and families adventure, and it will be running at St. Paul’s, Maidstone, Lympne and Saltwood churches, and St. Martin’s, Dover. Pray that these churches can reach out into parts of their community they’ve yet to connect with, and that Bubble Church gives them the opportunity to show something of the love of Jesus to a new generation.

Prayer written by Revd Anthea Mitchell - Curate at St Pauls, Maidstone

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Bukedi - The Church of the Province of Uganda
16 JAN  MAIDSTONE: ST ANDREW (BARMING HEATH)

Clergy: Vacant

Churchwardens: Julius Gnanamoney, Graham Chantler

Pray with us today, as we ask God to create more compassionate leaders within our churches and the wider community. We pray for those in leadership roles, praying that they will learn to be more compassionate, treating others as they would like to be treated.

Pray for our congregation as we navigate this time of interregnum.

We pray too for all those who are suffering in any way as a consequence of war. We ask that God will be with them and comfort them during this time.

Amen.

Anglican Communion:

*The Diocese of Bukuru - The Church of Nigeria*

17 JAN  MAIDSTONE: ST FAITH WITH RINGLESTONE HALL

Clergy: Arthur Houston

Reader: Sue Shaw

Anglican Communion:

*The Diocese of Bunbury - The Anglican Church of Australia*

18 JAN  PRAYING TOGETHER: WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

‘I pray that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.’ John 17 v 21

Lord Jesus, your prayer for all your followers was that they should be One, working together to demonstrate your love to the world, mirroring your love with the Father.

Help us to be One Church, doing things together in unity, even if not in uniformity, to achieve far more together than we can apart, and concentrate on the vast number of things we share and agree on, rather than bickering over the 5% of traditions and dogmas that separate denominations and church-man-ships.

Prayer written by Canon David Slater - Chair of Christians Together in Dover

Anglican Communion:

*Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*

*The Diocese of Bungoma - The Anglican Church of Kenya*
19 Jan Maidstone: St Luke the Evangelist
Clergy: Gareth Dickinson
Assistant Curate: Hollie Butler
Reader: Brad Cook

*Anglican Communion:*
*Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*
*The Diocese of Bunyoro-Kitara - The Church of the Province of Uganda*

20 Jan Maidstone: St Martin
Clergy: Joyce Addison
Assistant Curate: Andrew Edwards
Ignite Enabler: Angela Frost

The people of St. Martin’s are looking forward to 2024 as we seek ways to deepen our relationship with God and one another. Please pray for the faithful volunteers, for our Lay Ministers; Sue Yeo, our Anna Chaplain, Robin our trainee deacon, our Ignite Enabler Angie Frost and Rev Andrew, our curate. Having agreed plans for an accessible toilet/nappy change space and permanent raised path at the church entrance, we welcome prayers for our fundraising team. Finally, by God’s grace may our food outreach, ‘Food-4-You,’ continue to be sustained so that we may be a blessing to those around us.

*Anglican Communion:*
*Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*
*The Diocese of Busan - The Anglican Church of Korea*

21 Jan Parkwood: Christ Church
Clergy: Vacant
Reader: Linda Thatcher
Churchwarden: Pat Simmonds

*Anglican Communion:*
*3rd Sunday of Epiphany*
*Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*
*The Church of South India (United)*
22 Jan Praying Together: for the Outcast and Stranger

Lord Jesus, you went out of your way to bless those living on the edge of society and welcome them into your Kingdom. May we find a place in our hearts and in our churches to include Gypsies, Travellers and Roma, that God our Father might be all in all. Amen.

Prayer written by Revd Martin Burrell - Bishop’s Advisor for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma

Anglican Communion:
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Diocese of Busoga - The Church of the Province of Uganda

23 Jan Maidstone: St Michael and All Angels

Clergy: Vacant
Reader: Eleanor Relle
Churchwarden: Jonathan Ardley
Schools: St Michael’s CE School Federation (Infant), St Michael’s CE Junior School

Anglican Communion:
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Diocese of Central Busoga - The Church of the Province of Uganda

24 Jan Maidstone: St Paul

Clergy: Vacant
Assistant Curate: Anthea Mitchell
Churchwardens: Brian Beswick, Mark Turner

Please pray for St. Paul’s as we move into the next stage of the process of finding a new Priest-in-charge. Pray that God is calling forward a person who will love us and lead us into a fruitful future. We believe that there is a deep need in our community for light and love of Christ, and as we prepare to launch ‘Bubble Church’ early next year (a 30-minute service aimed specifically at families with young children), please pray that we are able to reach out and connect with more people in our community through this innovative new idea.

Anglican Communion:
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Diocese of Butare - Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda
25 Jan
PRAYING TOGETHER: JOURNEYING WITH GOD

Lord Jesus,
As we place one foot in front of the other
As we make our way along this path
Remind us that You walk with us
Remind us that You walk with us
As we pause at the fork in the road in front of us
As we ponder which way to go
Remind us that You stand with us
Remind us that You stand with us.

May the candle flame of your word
Remind us that You are with us,
Remind us that You are next to us.

May the bright sunlight of your word,
Remind us that You are behind us, with us, and before us
Remind us that You are with us every step of the way.

Amen.

Prayer written by Richard Heywood - Authorised Lay Minister at Trinity Benefice
Folkestone

Anglican Communion:
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
The Diocese of Butere - The Anglican Church of Kenya

26 Jan
PRAYING WITH THE NORTH DOWNS DEANERY: CLERGY AND PEOPLE

Area Dean: Vacant
Lay Chair: Rhian Banham
Secretary: Mary Tasker
Treasurer: Peter Roberts

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Buye - The Anglican Church of Burundi
27 JAN  PRAYING WITH THE NORTH DOWNS 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:

Peter Callway, Robin Gill, Millie Hart, Lesley Ludlow, Yvonne Salmon

Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Byumba - Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda

28 JAN  PRAYING WITH THE NORTH DOWNS DEANERY CHAPLAINS

Pray for all those exercising chaplaincy ministry - formally and informally - within Schools, uniformed organisations, 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.

Jackie Saunders, Peter Ashford

Anglican Communion:
4th Sunday of Epiphany

Septuagesima

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

29 JAN  PRAYING TOGETHER: FOR CHILDREN’S AND YOUTH MINISTRY

We pray today for those who are called to Children and Youth Ministry within our Diocese.

We thank God for the love and commitment he has placed on the hearts of all those who minister to and with our children and young people.

Give them joy, commitment and enthusiasm as they share the gospel with the next generation.

Amen.

Prayer written by Jen Tobin - Lead Diocesan Officer for Children and Youth Ministry

Anglican Communion:
The Diocese of Calabar - The Church of Nigeria
30 JAN  BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA: ST PETER

Clergy: Vacant

Readers: David Parry, Christine Holland

Churchwardens: Peter Holland, Carol Parry

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Calcutta - The Church of North India

31 JAN  LEN VALLEY BENEFICE

Clergy: John Huggins

Reader: Pamela Cuerden

Schools: Ulcombe CE Primary School, Harrietsham CE Primary School

God is at work in the Len Valley Benefice in many ways and we ask your prayers for those attending the Alpha Course, and new times of quiet meditation for those in the community who are stressed by life. We also have two large projects in the pipeline: a plan to reorder the rear of St Mary’s Lenham, to be a Lenham Village Hub that is eco-friendly and builds community in the village and beyond; and a plan for a Len Valley Festival in the summer to stimulate faith conversations in the benefice beyond the church walls. Pray with us as we continue with our planning.

Anglican Communion:

The Diocese of Caledonia - The Anglican Church of Canada
THE WONDER OF PRAYER

ADVENT — PRINCE OF PEACE

‘And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.’ (Isaiah 9:6 NIV)

Jesus, whose presence is peace –

- In mercy, bring peace and hope to the land of your birth.
- Grow in us the gifts of peace-making in the midst of difference and disagreement.
- Fill every night shelter and warm space with your loving presence this winter.
- Inspire our telling of your story, that many may hear and be changed.
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.

A change of season is one of the best times to wonder anew at God’s creative genius. As summer turns to autumn and autumn to winter, why not make time to go for a walk (alone or with others) and notice all the miracles of nature in transition.

To sign up for regular updates from the Changing Lives Prayer Network, visit canterburydiocese.org/prayer or email lbywater@diocant.org
Image: ‘Peace’ by Primrose Northrop
For more information about Wonder, visit canterburydiocese.org/wonder

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Cover painting: Primrose Northrop ‘Dawn Light’ watercolour and charcoal on recycled paper