

St. Bartholomew's Church, Otford

Parish Prayer Diary - December 2024

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Glory to the New Born King"

Please pray and give thanks for:

1. **1st Sunday of Advent.** All involved in today's services, especially the Advent Carol Service by Candlelight this evening. Also for the residents of Hopfield Close and for the work of The Children's Society.
2. All those meeting to enjoy friendship and fellowship at CAMEO this afternoon.
3. On this day, those with physical and mental disabilities, giving thanks for organisations and communities taking action to improve their lives.
4. All those attending this morning's Book of Common Prayer service of Holy Communion, and for refreshments and companionship afterwards.
5. All members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) as they meet this evening, giving thanks for their generous use of time and talents.
6. All involved in Warm Welcome this afternoon, meeting to enjoy warmth and hospitality.
7. All attending 'Carols and Cake' in the Church Centre today – may they enjoy a bit of festive spirit!
8. **2nd Sunday of Advent.** At this time of year we give thanks for the joy of music and how it enables us to worship the King of Kings. Also for the residents of Knighton Road and for the work of Loaves and Fishes.
9. Charities for the homeless – Salvation Army, Shelter and Crisis and all those that extend hospitality and hope throughout the year to those in greatest need.
10. Our churchwardens Janet and Joan, our tech team and sidespeople as they prepare for a very busy Christmas period ahead.
11. Those involved in the First Steps Christmas Service today – may all parents, carers and little ones enjoy hearing the Christmas story.
12. All who attend School Carol Services at this time – may the children learn more of the true meaning of Christmas.
13. Those organising the Tree of Light Service this evening, giving thanks for the wonderful and dedicated work of Hospice in the Weald.
14. All involved in the 'Carols in the Library' event in Otford today, and also for the young people at EPIC this evening – may both be enjoyable and fun!
15. **3rd Sunday of Advent.** All attending today's services and for all at Sunday Club and YPF. Also for the residents of Leonard Avenue and for the work of the Sevenoaks Area Youth Trust (SAYT).
16. Those who have lost loved ones in recent years, and whose loss is keenly felt at this time of year – may they find comfort and joy in remembering them.

17. Those in the Armed Forces who are away on tours of duty this Christmas time, and for their family and friends missing them back home.
18. All staff and children as the school term ends – may they enjoy and be refreshed by the Christmas holidays.
19. All involved in today's Otford Lunch Club Christmas Lunch, giving thanks for the cooks, helpers and those who provide transport each week throughout the year.
20. The Ministry Team – giving thanks for Dawn, Mags and Margaret, as they work ever harder during this continuing time of vacancy in our church.
21. On the Shortest Day, for all those who will be travelling during the hours of darkness this Christmas time, and for safe journeys.
22. **4th Sunday of Advent.** All taking part in this morning's Sunday Club Nativity and YPF Christmas Celebration, and for the Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight this evening. Also for the residents of The Old Walk and for the work of The Bible Society.
23. Those working in the Post Office, Pharmacy, and One Stop – giving thanks for all our local shops which together make Otford a great community.
24. Families and friends coming to the Crib Service today, and those attending Midnight Communion. May they hear of the joy and wonder of Christmas.
25. **Christmas Day.** "Yea Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning". We pray for all Christians worshipping around the world celebrating the birth of Jesus, and we pray for Peace on Earth.
26. Boxing Day. All visiting clergy and celebrants, that they may enjoy some post-Christmas rest and relaxation.
27. All working in the NHS and the emergency services – fire, police and ambulance – who have worked over the Christmas holiday period.
28. Clive, working in our church office and all who assist in any way to keep our church thriving in these difficult times.
29. **1st Sunday of Christmas.** Those involved in our services today, for the bellringers and for Kevin and our faithful choir. Also for the residents of Orchard Road and for the work of the Church Mission Society (CMS).
30. Those working in our local cafes, pubs and restaurants during this busy festive season.
31. On this New Year's Eve, for ourselves, our families, our friends and our church, as we put our trust in God for the plans He has for us in 2025.