

Winter 2021/22

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich

Prayer Diary

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Colossians 3.12

(Above) Christ Church Eaton's Coronaquilt of kindness. "In the process of creating this, we have met with love, joy, peace, patience, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control to stitch, knit and paint our contributions safely in our own homes."

If you have a story to feature on a Sunday in a future diary, please do get in touch! Email info@dioceseofnorwich.org or phone on **01603 880853**

Please consider a donation of £2 to cover production costs. Scan the QR code and choose "general donation" from the drop-down menu. Thank you.



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich

Diocesan House, 109 Dereham Road, Easton, Norwich NR9 5ES

www.dioceseofnorwich.org

Registered Charity No: 2493 18

Come and pray to me,
I will hear you.

Jeremiah 29.12



Young people enjoying a prayer retreat at the With Community.

Transformed by Christ: **Prayerful, Pastoral, Prophetic**

www.dioceseofnorwich.org



Foreword from Bishop Jane

Welcome to this prayer diary. It takes us through Advent into Christmas, and to the start of Lent in early March.

I wonder how you think of prayer. One of my favourite descriptions is the “heart in pilgrimage”. In prayer, we move towards God. We offer ourselves, our stories, our needs and requests. But we also wait on God. We still our hearts and listen for what the Spirit might say to us. Prayer is “longing for God” which lets us “grow and go a bit deeper in relationship with God”. Prayer is the work of the Church in which each of us is needed.

This prayer diary helps. Using it, we come together as Christian people, separated in place and time, but one in Jesus Christ. There is great joy

in knowing that others are praying with us and for us. For prayer is transformative, not of God but of we who are God’s children. Our diocesan Vision expresses our desire to be Transformed by Christ: prayerful, pastoral and prophetic. As we pray together through this diary, may that be fulfilled in us.

Quotations: George Herbert, ‘Prayer’; S.Cottrell, How to Pray; P.Greig, How to Pray.

Please note that the content is compiled some weeks in advance of production, so although all facts are correct at time of press, they may not be by the end of the quarter.
Thanks for your understanding.

Soul Space at Litcham High School

Terms such as “jewel like”, “multifaceted” and “gleaming” seem accurate descriptors for this work connecting Litcham High School and local church. Paul Roast of Breckland Youth for Christ spoke of the church approaching them, asking for help creating a prayer space, initially for one week in July.

As a spin off they are now on site every week at the “Soul Space” spending time with each year group in turn. Spiritual, social, moral and cultural education is encompassed along with mental wellbeing as students consider leads such as thankfulness or building good things into their lives (represented by bricks in a wall). The presence of Christians in the classroom, living out their faith, is immeasurably more helpful than a textbook for students learning about Christianity.

Paul and the church are working towards a chaplaincy contact on site, to journey with the students, linking them with the local church as appropriate.

SUN 27 SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY

We praise you Lord, for your manifold wisdom displayed connecting Litcham High School and the local church. Please guide and encourage all involved as they work towards a chaplaincy position in school. We lift the children to you and pray you enlighten the eyes of their hearts to know you.

MON 28 THORPE ST ANDREW (NORWICH)

Thorpe Episcopi. Clergy: James Stewart.
Deanery of Skelleftea and Dean Robert Koss in Lulea, our link diocese in Sweden.

TUE 1 TIMBERHILL (NORWICH)

Richard Stanton, Edwin Wilton-Morgan.
Diocese of Saint Asaph (Wales).

WED 2 SOUL SPACES

Listening God, we bring you the spiritual needs of all your people, young and old. Inspired by those who nurture spirituality in schools, may our commitment to creating and maintaining our own “soul spaces” be deepened daily.

THU 3 TROWSE (NORWICH)

Clergy: Rosemary Braby, LL.M; Chris Sanham.
Members of the Bishop’s Council of Trustees.
Diocese of Athabasca (Canada).

FRI 4 DEANERY OF NORWICH NORTH

Rural Dean: Margaret McPhee,
Lay Chair: Stella Noons.
All Authorised Worship Assistants.

SAT 5 DRAYTON

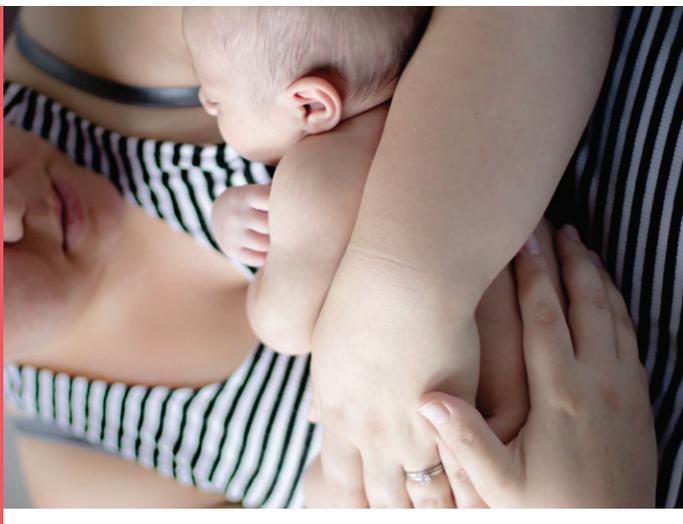
Clergy: Marc Palmer. Drayton Junior.
Diocese of Athooch (South Sudan).



Welcoming Hong Kong immigrants

The recent political turmoil in China has resulted in around 90 young professional families arriving in Norwich from Hong Kong in 2021. There is a longing for security and friendship after the upheaval and distress of the past few years. Children are used to doing their best in school but are now facing language and cultural difficulties. It is easy to understand the draw of a Chinese enclave but there is a desire not to settle for that alone.

The Chinese Church in Bowthorpe is flourishing and offers ministry in both Mandarin and English. It is humbling and uplifting to go there and feel joy in being one in Christ. The minister, Stephen Lau, and other leaders tirelessly serve this congregation which is now enriched with new families as well as students. There is a real sense of community, gathering as brothers and sisters in Christ whatever our background.



Nurturing spiritual life

Early this year Rosie, Carole and Jackie applied to the Council for a Covid Recovery Grant and set up Noah's Boat Mums and Babies at Holy Trinity, Norwich. They were inspired by Rachel Turner in a webinar and her book is given to each Mum, "Babies and Toddlers: Nurturing your child's spiritual life".

The room is bright and clean with separate mats, chairs, and toys; extra touches of vases of roses and soothing music add to the ambience. The quiet chatting and companionship is beautiful. There is a focus point, songs and a short talk on making time to connect with God. One mum had just found the group after chatting with another mum on the street. It was her first time and it was clear that life had been difficult. She left refreshed and full of encouragement, knowing she is not alone. She even joined the WhatsApp group.



SUN 20 UNITY IN CHRIST

In the unity of the Spirit we pray, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all. Father, please help us cross the boundaries of culture and language and extend welcoming hands to those who long to find healing and a home in this place.

MON 21 ST HELEN (NORWICH)

Clergy: Eleanor Langan.
Diocese of Armidale (Australia).

TUE 22 ST PETER MANCROFT (NORWICH)

Clergy: Edward Carter, Lorna Allies, Fiona Haworth. LLMs: Derek Hilton, Gill Persicke. Safeguarding: Sue Brice, Peter Sayer, Ruth Walker and all Parish Safeguarding Officers.
Dioceses of Arochukwe / Ohaifa and Asaba (Nigeria).

WED 23 CHINESE CHURCH

Listening God, we bring you all who struggle as strangers in a foreign land. As we thank you for the welcoming love of Bowthorpe's Chinese Church, we pray that hard hearts everywhere may be softened by your Spirit.

THU 24 ST STEPHEN (NORWICH)

Clergy: Madeline Light, Ian Fifield.
Imagine Norfolk Together: Andrew Frere-Smith, Anna Heydon.
Diocese of Aru (Congo).

FRI 25 THORPE END

Clergy: Tim Dawson. LLM: Jenefer Barnard.
Bishops Graham (Norwich), Alan (Thetford) and Jane (Lynn).

SAT 26 THORPE HAMLET (NORWICH)

Clergy: Patrick Jordan, Janet Wyer.
Diocese of Asante-Mampong (West Africa).

SUN 5 SPIRITUAL SPACE

"I pray that you get lots of sleep and discover little minutes here and there of joy, rest and reflection as you take on one of the most important jobs in the world: parenting your little one." Amen. (Rachel Turner)

MON 6 GLAVEN VALLEY

Blakeney, Cleyn-next-the-Sea, Glandford, Letheringsett with Bayfield, Wiveton. Clergy: Richard Lawry. LLMs: Penelope Thewlis, Roger Bland. Blakeney Primary.
All Local Ecumenical Partnerships.

TUE 7 HOLT

Clergy: Howard Stoker, Gary Gould. LLM: John Allen. Diocesan Secretary.
Dioceses of Ihalia, Ijebu, Jebu North and Ijebu South (Nigeria).

WED 8 SUPPORTIVE HAVEN

Listening God, we bring you 'Noah's Boat' and ask for your blessing: may it continue to offer a supportive haven to those struggling with new parenthood, a lifeline of companionship to those who feel alone.

THU 9 MATLASKE

Baconsthorpe, Barmingham Winter, Edgefield, Hempstead, Matlaske, Plumstead, Saxthorpe with Corpusty. Clergy: David Longe, Judy Rosser.
Dioceses of Ijesa North East, Ijesha North and Ijuma (Nigeria).

FRI 10 STIFFKEY AND BALE

Bale, Binham, Field Dalling, Gunthorpe, Langham Episcopi, Morston, Saxlingham, Sharrington, Stiffkey. Clergy: Ian Whittle.
Dioceses of Ikara, Ikeduru and Ikka (Nigeria).

SAT 11 WEYBOURNE GROUP

Bodham, East with West Beckham, Kelling, Salthouse, Upper Sheringham, Weybourne. Clergy: Ian Dyble. LLM: John Arkell. Kelling Primary.
Dioceses of Ikwerre, Ikwo and Ikwuano (Nigeria).



Praying for our planet

The Revd Lydia Avery has compiled a set of resources to help us pray for our planet www.dioceaseofnorwich.org/resource_category/environment She says:

“We read that at the very beginning when God created the Earth, he saw its goodness and loved it. We are invited to be part of God’s mission to safeguard creation and to work to sustain life on the planet. But we often start with ourselves, and largely forget about others – those neighbours who make up the rest of life on Earth.

“At COP26 in November, the leaders of the world worked to reset the balance, but of course, that’s not end of the story. Each one of us is part of it – our action or inaction counts too. What we do may also speak loudly of what we think about God’s idea of love, stewardship and what makes a good neighbourhood.”

SUN 12 HUMBLER STEWARDS

We pray for the leaders of the nations, that through the integrity surrounding their decisions, we will avoid the worst of climate change. Holy Spirit, show us how to become humbler stewards of creation in the place where we plant our feet each day.

MON 13 DEANERY OF HUMBLEYARD

Rural Dean: Graham Wilkins. Lay Chair: Roger Wood. Bishops Graham (Norwich), Alan (Thetford) and Jane (Lynn).

TUE 14 CRINGLEFORD

Colney, Cringleford. Clergy: Graham Wilkins, Tim Yau. Licensed Lay Minister: Shirley Wood. Cringleford Primary.

Dioceses of Ilaje, Ile-Oluji, Ilesa and Ilesa South West (Nigeria).

WED 15 GREEN-GROWING HOPE

Listening God, we bring you our deep concern for our planet: stir hopelessness into action, we pray, and from action bring restoration, that green-growing hope may rise once more across the globe.



Leading others into prayer

Sometimes it feels hard to find the right words to pray. It can feel even harder finding words to lead the whole worshipping community in prayer, especially if you haven’t done so before... “So, the Parish of Great Yarmouth,” says Assistant Curate, Helen Lynch, “is planning a morning in February to equip and encourage those who already lead our prayers in worship as well as those who are being newly drawn into this ministry.”

Colleen (pictured) has been leading intercessions for 20 years: “I try to write prayers that link with that day’s readings – it doesn’t always work, but it’s great when it does.” Matt has been leading prayers during Covid for the parish Facebook prayer group: “A strong web of connection has formed, a praying community whilst physically apart. Now we’re back worshipping in person, I hope the morning will explore ways of adapting our prayers to different contexts.”

SUN 13 INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Come Holy Spirit! You equip and encourage us all in our various ministries: bless with your presence, we pray, next Saturday’s intercessions workshops in Great Yarmouth, that those involved there in the leading of prayers may be affirmed and encouraged in this ministry and graced with refreshed skills and insights.

MON 14 LAKENHAM GROUP (NORWICH LAKENHAM ST MARK)

Lakenham St Mark. Clergy: Erik West-Lindell. LLM: Paulette Yallop. Registry: Stuart Jones, Joanna Pelan. **Diocese of Kentucky (USA).**

TUE 15 LAKENHAM GROUP (ST JOHN & TUCKSWOOD)

Clergy: Paul Rider. LLM: Gus Woodcock. **Dioceses of Mount Kenya Central, Mount Kenya South and Mount Kenya West (Kenya).**

WED 16 PRAYERFUL TOGETHER

Listening God, we bring you all who lead the prayers of others. As we thank you for their ministry, we pray too for the needful gifts of grace – insight, compassion, wisdom, humility – to unite a community in prayer.

THU 17 NORWICH CATHEDRAL

Clergy: Jane Hedges, Peter Doll, Aidan Platten, Andy Bryant, Keith James, Edwin Wilton-Morgan. LLMs: Pamela Garrett, Frank Paice.

Dioceses of East Kerala and South Kerala (South India).

FRI 18 ST ANDREW (NORWICH)

Clergy: Martin Young, Michael Hayden. **Diocese of Kericho (Kenya).**

SAT 19 ST GILES (NORWICH)

Clergy: Alaric Lewis. St Benet’s MAT: Richard Cranmer, Sam Nixon, Suzannah Kay.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Genesis 2.15



Cawston Parish Church celebrating their silver eco church achievement



Taizé Prayer

Every other month, a candlelit service is held in Cley Church inspired by the worship of a community of monks in the tiny French village of Taizé. Roger Bland, who organises these services, describes a large image of the crucified Christ among flickering tea lights drawing the eye and focussing the mind of those gathered for worship. He also emphasises their simplicity – a short reading, a few spoken prayers, some significant periods of silence and the sung chants for which the Taizé community is especially famous.

There is a spare beauty about the chants which are sung over and over again. This meditative repetition can carry both words and music deep into the hearts of those present, creating there a wonderfully still, reflective space in which to pray, in which to become lost in prayer. All are welcome at Cley's next Taizé Prayer at 4pm on Sunday 2 January.

SUN 19 WAIT FOR THE LORD

Christ our Light, in these last days of Advent, as we watch and wait for your presence amongst us, the words of a Taizé chant give voice to our hope and longing: *"Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart!"*

MON 20 SWARDESTON

East Carleton, Intwood, Ketteringham, Swardeston. Clergy: Paul Burr. LLM: Peter Worby. Finance support: Susan Bunting, James South, Ben Tooke, Fiona Jeffs, Michael Hibbin and all PCC Treasurers. **Diocese of Iowa (USA).**

TUE 21 UPPER TAS VALLEY

Fundenhall, Upper Tas Valley All Saints. Clergy: Lydia Avery. LLMs: John Hooper, Margaret Styles. Forncett Primary, Hapton Primary, Tacolneston Primary, Wreningham Primary. Honorary Assistant Bishops: Norman Banks (Richborough) and Rod Thomas (Maidstone).

WED 22 WATCHING AND WAITING

Listening God, we bring you our preparations for your arrival, longing for your new-born presence among us. May the busy-ness of these pre-

Christmas days be graced by a profound inner stillness as we watch and wait.

THU 23 WYMONDHAM SILFIELD AND SPOONER ROW

Clergy: Catherine Relf-Pennington. Deanery of Lulea and Hans Johansson in Lulea our link diocese in Sweden.

FRI 24 DEANERY OF INGORTH & SPARHAM

Rural Dean: Keith Rengert. Lay Chair: Kandi Kammoun. Dioceses of Northern Ison & Western Ison (Nigeria).

SAT 25 AYLISHAM & DISTRICT TEAM MINISTRY

Aldborough, Aylsham, Badersfield, Blickling, Brampton, Burgh-next-Aylsham, Buxton with Oxnead, Cawston, Haveringland, Heydon, Itteringham, Lammas, Little Barningham, Marsham, Oulton SS Peter and Paul, Wickmere. Clergy: Julie Boyd, Tracy Jessop, Tony Lynn, Shawn Tomlinson, Andrew Whitehead. LLMs: David Martin, Gillian Peat, Joy Taylor, Kandi Kammoun, Fiona Tibbitt. Aylsham St Michael's Nursery & Infant, Cawston Primary.



Refugees welcome here

Last summer we witnessed events unfolding in Afghanistan with many fleeing their homeland as the Taliban took power. At the request of Norfolk County Council, Bishop Graham re-launched the Refugee Fund and thanks to the generous response, we're able to administer grants to meet the needs of those arriving here. We have also been able to make a vacant clergy house available for an Afghan family. Bishop Graham says: "My prayer is that this house will soon become a home for a family to settle and thrive in. May they find the welcome that so many 'strangers' down the centuries have found in the wonderful city of Norwich. It's another way of living out the Gospel of Christ in loving our neighbour." To find out more about what practical help is still needed, please visit Norfolk County Council's website page www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/norfolk-county-council-news-and-updates/afghan-resettlement

SUN 26 PROVIDING REFUGE

God of refuge, we give thanks for the generosity of the people across our Diocese in contributing to the Refugee Fund. We pray your blessings on all those who work to support the refugees in our midst and ask that you continue to inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts.

MON 27 COLTISHALL

Coltishall, Frettenham, Hainford, Horstead, Stratton Strawless. Clergy: Chris Engelsen, Keith Dignum. LLM: Nora Hall. Hainford Primary. Diocese of Iran (Jerusalem & The Middle East).

TUE 28 REEPHAM & WENSUM VALLEY TEAM MINISTRY

Alderford with Attlebridge, Bylaugh, Elsing, Great with Little Witchingham, Lyng, Reepham, Salle, Sparham, Swannington, Thurning, Weston Longville w Morton-on-the-Hill, Wood Dalling. Clergy: Helen Rengert, Keith Rengert, Judith Sweetman, Richard Turk. LLMs: Sue Page, Helena Crockford. Great Witchingham Primary, Lyng Primary. Dioceses of Irele-Eseodo and Isimbano (Nigeria).

WED 29 ENFOLD, PROTECT

Listening God, we bring you those who, like Jesus fleeing with his family from Herod's tyranny, are forced to flee from oppression today. Enfold in your protection all who are in exile and looking for a safe place to call home.

THU 30 SCARROWBECK

Alby, Calthorpe, Erpingham, Ingworth, Thwaite. Clergy: Heather Butcher. LLMs: Ian Andrews, Helen Burrell, Angela Parkes, Colin Willis. Erpingham Primary. Companion Province of Papua New Guinea.

FRI 31 SCOTTOW

The Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy. Education support: Paul Dunning, Holly Davy, Chris Allan, Jon Moule.

SAT 2 THE HEART OF NORFOLK TEAM MINISTRY

Bawdeswell, Billingford, Bintree, Foulsham, Foxley, Guestwick, Guist, North Elmham, Stibbard, Thelthorpe, Twyford, Wood Norton, Worthing. Clergy: Sally Kimmis, Michael Cartwright, Christopher Davies. LLMs: Norman Johnson. North Elmham Primary, Stibbard All Saints' Primary. Dioceses of Isiala-Ngwa, Isiala-Ngwa South and Isikwuato (Nigeria).



Transforming young lives

It was a privilege to hear Hannah and Naomi as they fizzed with enthusiasm for the work of Christian Union at the UEA. About 130 CU students gather every week on campus in a lecture theatre, supporting each other and building community. Right from the start, each student is encouraged to join a church and their presence is appreciated throughout the city. In September, Andy Woodman was appointed Chaplain to the UEA as well as Associate Vicar of St Anne's Earham. Years of prayer are bringing results.

Events Week runs 14-19 February on campus with speakers invited, food available and opportunities to be curious about Christ and his Church. Hannah and Naomi ask for prayers that all students can have the chance to hear and respond to the message of Christ, for true connections and genuine friendships to be formed, so that continuing conversations can be sparked.

SUN 6 LIVING LETTERS

Holy Spirit we ask that the students demonstrate they are a letter from Christ, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. We ask for this letter to be heard and for many to respond. Amen.

MON 7 ST JOHN – KING'S LYNN GROUP

Clergy: Becca Rogers, Jon Price. LLMs: Joyce Pitcher, Nigel Singletery, David Osborne. Diocese of Karimnagar (South India).

TUE 8 THE CHURCH IN THE WOOTTONS

Clergy: James Nash, Julie Swinton, Dan Tansey. Dioceses of Karnataka Central, Karnataka North and Karnataka South (South India).

WED 9 CHRISTIAN UNION

Listening God, we bring you the special events for next week planned by the UEA's Christian Union. Breathe into them – and into all attempts to share the good news of your love – the gentle stirrings of your Spirit.

THU 10 DEANERY OF NORWICH EAST

Rural Dean: Lorna Allies, Edward Carter. Lay Chair: Bridgid Everitt.

Dioceses of Kasai and Katanga (Congo).

FRI 11 COLEGATE & TOMBLAND NORWICH

Norwich St George Colegate, Norwich St George Tombland. Clergy: Alaric Lewis, Annie Blyth. LLMs: Kevin Mitchelson, Catherine Waddams. Diocese of Katakwa (Kenya).

SAT 12 HEARTSEASE (NORWICH)

Norwich Heartsease. Clergy: Janet Wyer, Patrick Jordan, Tracy Williams. LLMs: Gloria Chinery, Jim Green, David Lechmere. The Open Academy. Diocese of Katsina and Kebbi (Nigeria).



An Anna Chaplain at work

The octogenarian Anna comes onto the stage on Wednesday. With Simeon, she recognises the child Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. Luke describes a faithful, prayerful, hopeful woman (2.36-8), attributes which inspire our own new Anna Chaplains commissioned last October. One of them was Margaret Blackshaw (pictured), from St Stephen's Church, Norwich.

An older lady – let's call her 'Brenda' – also from St Stephen's, well-supported by family but living alone, greatly valued Margaret's ministry throughout the pandemic. She loved it when Margaret phoned and gave her time and a listening ear. During one lockdown, Brenda fell and spent weeks in hospital. After that, back in her flat but still incapacitated, Margaret's phone calls became even more important. Brenda could off-load, share her story, be heard.

Lockdown over, Margaret visited Brenda's flat in person and the two women gratefully prayed together, recognising God's care and goodness at work in their phone calls.

SUN 30 ANNA CHAPLAINS

Listening God, as we pray for the isolated and lonely, we thank you for the growing ministry of Anna Chaplains across our diocese and for all who offer pastoral and spiritual support to older people. Sharpen the hearing of each one of us to those who need to be heard.

MON 31 GAYTON, GRIMSTON,

MASSINGHAM & DISTRICT TEAM MINISTRY
Ashwicken with Leziate. Bawsey and Mintlyn, Congham, East Walton, Gayton, Gayton Thorpe, Great Massingham, Grimston, Harpley, Little Massingham, Roydon. Clergy: Sue Martin, Judith Pollard. LLMs: Helen Steele, Joy Smith. Ashwicken Primary, Gayton Primary, Great Massingham Primary, Harpley Primary.

TUE 1 GAYWOOD

Clergy: Karlene Kerr, Laura Purnell. LLMs: Daphne Sampson, Martin Purnell. Religious Society of Friends: Area Representative, Liz Hoffbauer. **Diocese of Kapoeta (South Sudan).**

WED 2 PRAYERFUL AND HOPEFUL

Listening God, we bring you those who mirror your own listening, all who pastor others by enabling them to feel heard. Give to the growing number of Anna Chaplains in this diocese the faithful, prayerful, hopeful qualities of Anna herself.

THU 3 KING'S LYNN SAINT MARGARET WITH SAINT NICHOLAS

Clergy: Mark Dimond, Angela Rayner, Becca Rogers. LLM: Andrew Ward. Bishops Graham (Norwich), Alan (Thetford) and Jane (Lynn). **Diocese of Kapsabet (Kenya).**

FRI 4 MIDDLEWINCH

East Winch with West Bilney, Middleton, North Runcton, West Winch and Setchey. Clergy: Riaz Mubarak. LLM: Helen Steele. Middleton Primary. School. **Diocese of Karachi (Pakistan).**

SAT 5 SOUTH AND WEST LYNN –

KING'S LYNN GROUP

Clergy: Adrian Ling. St Michael's Primary, Whitefriars Primary. **Dioceses of Karamoja and North Karamoja (Uganda).**

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

Ephesians 6.18



Wild Church Norfolk uses all the senses in prayer, to connect with community and care for creation.



Caring for our clergy

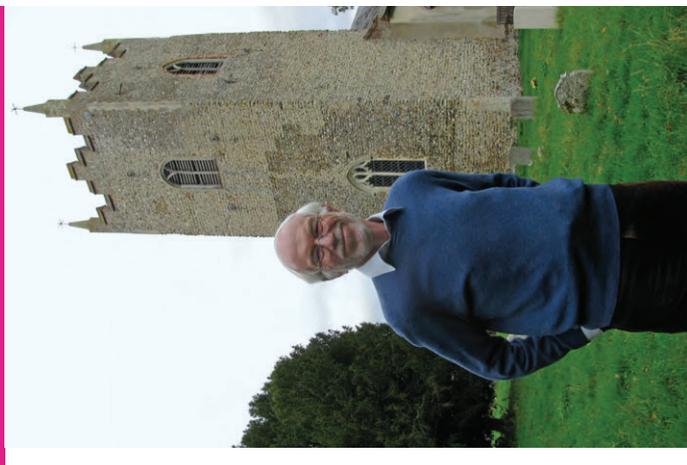
Ordained ministry can be a most rewarding calling and role. It can also contain many difficulties and demands. Following the Christmas season, many of our clergy can feel wiped out.

The Revd Keith James says: "The Church of England recently committed itself to a Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing and as a Diocese we are seeking to make clergy wellbeing an integral part of our life together.

"How we do that is as varied as our clergy but here are some questions for reflection:

- How do our clergy know that we care for them and value them?
- What are the demands they experience?
- What 'boundaries' do clergy need to help them work and rest?
- What support might their partner/family need?

"Such questions need handling with great care, kindness and sensitivity – just as St Paul suggests, 'As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.' (Col 3.12)"



A passion for creation care

Hethel Churchwarden, Peter Nicholls, explains his journey of faith in this area.

"In my teens, the ethical teaching of the Bible always made sense to me. For example, Jesus said, 'Love your neighbour as yourself' (Mark 12.31) because there's no better way to make life good for everyone. Godly wisdom is not at odds with worldly wisdom or scholarship.

"In adulthood, The Limits to Growth report (1972) and Small is Beautiful (1973) chimed with Genesis 1 and 2 on creation care. In practice, raising four children on one salary made frugality easy – hand-me-downs and a low-meat diet made financial as well as resource sense! Thus, the die was cast.

"So, my reasons for being passionate about creation care are: love for our worldwide neighbours; love for the generations to come; love for myself; love for creation itself; and, supremely, love for the God whose heart grieves when we mess up each other and this beautiful world.

SUN 2 LIGHT & CONSOLATION

Gracious God, we thank you for the courage and calling of those who serve in ordained ministry: be their light and consolation, in trouble and in joy; and grant us all your Spirit's gentle wisdom as we learn to serve each other with the kindness and care of your Son.

MON 3 DEANERY OF LODDON

Rural Dean: David Owen. Lay Chair: John Lowrey, Roman Catholic Church: Diocese of East Anglia, Bishop Alan Hopes.

TUE 4 BRAMERTON GROUP MINISTRY (ROCKLAND)

Bramerton, Carleton Saint Peter, Claxton, Kirby Bedon and Whitlingham, Rockland St Mary, Surlingham. Clergy: Nick Garrard, Helen Garrard. Diocese of Jabalpu (North India).

WED 5 GENTLE CARE

Listening God, we bring you the clergy of our diocese and pray for their wellbeing. As a new year dawns, may all those depleted by Christmas find fresh energy and encouragement in the gentle care of those around them.

THU 6 BRAMERTON GROUP MINISTRY (THURTON)

Ashby, Bergh Apton, Framingham Pigot, Thurton, Yelverton. Clergy: Chris Ellis, Cate Turner, Alington & Bergh Apton Primary, Thurton Primary. Diocese of Jaffna (South India).

FRI 7 CHET VALLEY

Chedgrave, Hardley, Langley, Loddon, Sisland. Clergy: David Owen, Alison Ball, Jill Haylock. LLM: Belinda Barwick.

Diocese of Jalingo and Jebba (Nigeria).

SAT 8 PORINGLAND

Framingham Earl, Howe, Poringland. Clergy: Robert Parsonage, Rachel Foster. Diocese of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands (West Indies).

SUN 23 EFFECTIVE STEWARDS

Creator God, thank you for teaching us through your Word how cause and effect operate in the natural world. Help us to take action and speak out, and enable us to be effective stewards of your creation.

MON 24 LOWESTOFT ST MARGARET

Clergy: The Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy. LLM: Gerda Buckley. Diocese of Kamango (Congo).

TUE 25 OULTON BROAD TEAM MINISTRY

Oulton, Oulton Broad. Clergy: Helen Jary, Margaret Barnes, Andy Bunter. LLMs: Jackie Makower, Debbie Allsop, Jill Hunting, Harold Waterman. Diocese of Kampala (Uganda).

WED 26 SPEAKING OUT FOR CREATION CARE

Listening God, we bring you the smallness we often feel in the face of creation care. Enlarge our vision, we pray, strengthen our convictions, and give us the courage to find our voice for the sake of your planet.

THU 27 PAKEFIELD

Clergy: Sharon Lord, Becki Bensusan. LLM: Trudie Jackson. Diocese of Kano (Nigeria).

FRI 28 SOMERLEYTON

Ashby, Blundeston, Fritton, Herringfleet, Lound, Somerleyton. Clergy: The churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy. Diocese of Kansa and Western Kansas (USA).

SAT 29 DEANERY OF LYNN

Rural Dean: Giving thanks for James Nash for his ministry as Rural Dean and praying for Becca Rogers as she prepares to take on the role. Lay Chair: Helen Steele, Jan Willison. Diocese of Kanyakumari (South India)



A rhythm of prayer for young people at With

The With Community is a new, ecumenical religious community in residence at the former All Hallows Convent in Ditchingham, creating a place of prayer and retreat focused on young people and Christians who work with them. Community member, Sarah, explains:

“We welcome groups of young people with their leaders, and individuals, onto spiritual retreats at our beautiful rural site. Our aim is to enable guests to explore their relationship with God in engaging and creative ways that will help them continue in their life of faith for years to come, providing space and time to be with each other, with themselves, with creation and with God.

“The Community, currently three members, pray in the chapel three times each day: morning, midday and evening. We’d love to pray for you too. If there are specific or ongoing things we can pray for you, please add them on the prayer page of our website: www.withcommunity.org.uk”

SUN 16 WITH COMMUNITY

Loving God, we lift before you the children and young people in our communities and ask you to be with them in all their situations. May they feel seen, known and accepted with love, and may your Spirit empower Christians who work with them to reflect your love towards them.

MON 17 HOPTON, CORTON AND GUNTON

Clergy: Nigel Lacey, Corton Primary, Hopton Primary.
Property and Glebe: Alan Cole, Anna Scriven, Charles Thurston, Hannah Middleitch, Sally Finn.
Diocese of Kadugli & Nuba Mountains (Sudan).

TUE 18 KESSINGLAND

Gisleham, Kessingland, Rushmere. Clergy: Mandy Bishop. LLM: Doreen Cowie. Kessingland Primary.
Dioceses of Kaduna and Kafanchan (Nigeria).

Fighting inequality and leading in love

“One of the great joys of my life as a Christian is to get to be God’s hands and feet. I believe that includes speaking out and taking action on issues that he is passionate about, which is a key reason why I am so excited to be your new Diocesan Secretary,” explains Tim Sweeting.

“As a church, we need to be prophetic, now more than ever, and the fantastic thing is that whatever our situation, we can all play our part. Together, we can fight the inequalities in our society, across our urban and rural communities; we can enable everyone to feel included in the love of Christ and his church; and we can help protect this world he has given us to enjoy. I am looking forward to working with friends and colleagues across the Diocese over the coming years to do just that.”

WED 19 BEARING FRUIT

Listening God, we bring you our gratitude for the With Community and for the vision and trust that lie behind it. We ask your blessing upon all who are part of this new project that, guided by you, its wonderful potential may come to fruition.

THU 20 KIRKLEY

Kirkley with Lowestoft: Saint John.
Clergy: Helen Chandler.
Spire staff: David Lemon, Iain Walker, Les Bailey, Matt Ramsell.

Diocese of Kagera (Tanzania).

FRI 21 LOWESTOFT CHRIST CHURCH

Clergy: Jon Carter. LLM: Peter Williams.
Diocese of Kajiado (Kenya).

SAT 22 LOWESTOFT ST ANDREW

Clergy: Damon Rogers. LLM: Eileen McMurtry.
Deanery of Pitea and Anna Piiirainean Andersson in Lulea our link diocese in Sweden.

SUN 9 LOVE & LIFE ABOUND

Lord, lead us as we speak out for, and act on, what matters to you. We pray for justice for all; for peace and reconciliation; for freedom from poverty – emotional, spiritual and financial; for the integrity of your creation; for life and love to abound.

MON 10 RAVENINGHAM GROUP

The Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy.
Diocese of Jerusalem (Jerusalem & The Middle East).

TUE 11 VENTA GROUP

Arminghall, Caistor St Edmund, Stoke Holy Cross.
Clergy: Rob Baker, Lyn Marsh.
Diocese of San Joaquin (USA).

WED 12 TIM SWEETING

Listening God, we bring you our new Diocesan Secretary and ask for your blessing upon him and his work. May we too, like Tim, rejoice that we are your hands and feet on earth and daily look for opportunities to serve you.

THU 13 WAVENEY MARSHLANDS

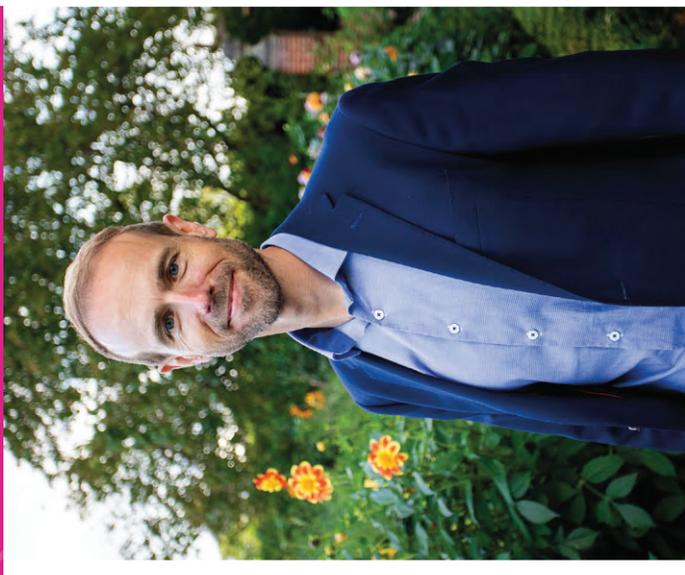
Aldeby, Burgh St Peter, Ellingham, Geldeston, Gillingham, Haddiscoe, Kirby Cane, Norton Subcourse, Raveningham, Stockton, Thorpe-next-Haddiscoe, Thuriton, Toft Monks, Wheatacre.
Clergy: David Smith. LLM: John Lowrey. Ellingham Primary, Gillingham St Michael’s Primary.
Diocese of Johannesburg (South Africa).

FRI 14 DEANERY OF LOTHINGLAND

Rural Dean: Helen Jary. Lay Chair: Trudie Jackson, Jane Tighe.
Dioceses of Jos and Kabba (Nigeria).

SAT 15 CARLTON COLVILLE

Carlton Colville, Mutford. Clergy: Sarah Quantrell. LLM: Mark Ellis.
Dioceses of Juba and Kajo-Keji (South Sudan).



A calendar of prayer

Susanna Gunner

Diocesan Adviser in Spirituality & Discipleship



With the beginning of Advent, our new Diocesan Vision has begun in earnest. Bishop Graham has invited us to join him on a journey, a journey characterised by three memorable words: *Prayerful, Pastoral and Prophetic.*

For each of the first three years of the Vision, we will, as a diocese, focus on one of these three “P” words. They will help to give shape to the Vision’s overall aim that we will – as individual disciples, as communities of faith and as a diocese – be *“transformed by Christ”*.

So with Advent Sunday 2021, we have begun a year marked by the word “Prayerful”... Some new resources have been produced to help – a poem, a new hymn and various prayers and suggestions for how they might be used [www.DofN.org/prayerful]. In addition, this year’s digital (but downloadable) Advent Calendar is focused on prayer, each “window” celebrating a different way of praying, of connecting with God, of drawing closer to the holy.

This Advent Calendar has already introduced us to Eileen, who prays as she sits or walks in her Old Buckenham garden: “Sometimes, I can’t

wait to get out there,” she says. “I meditate in quite a disciplined way, helped by the garden’s peace to close my mind off and be open to God.”

Then there’s Pauline from Mattishall, who settles herself after breakfast each morning near a small table on which she lights a candle in front of a simple wooden cross. “The flame is mesmerising,” she muses. “Its flickering light helps me feel that I am not alone. It calms me and helps me to focus. And it shines on the cross behind, where I see God’s immeasurable love for the world. I feel as if I am getting onto God’s wavelength as I sit there...”

For Emma, God becomes most apparent through the lens of a camera. Paying close attention to the “ordinary” things around her and really “seeing” them has become her prayer practice. She was out walking in Norwich during a rather bleak period of her life when she spotted this padlock: (left) “At a time when I was feeling particularly trapped, the fresh green leaves pushing their way through the lock spoke to me of the liberation and resurrection God was offering me,” she says.

During Advent, the calendar will also introduce us to many other ways of praying. If you haven’t already, you can sign up here www.DofN.org/advent and then, each Advent morning, someone will ping into your email inbox, someone who finds the psalms especially helpful, for example, or silence, or music, or exercise or the Daily Office. There’s no one “right” way, of course, but many interesting possibilities to explore and so each day’s calendar entry will end with an invitation to try. You might also like to meet with others to discuss the previous week’s “windows”... Expect to be taken on a bit of a journey. Expect to be surprised, challenged, moved, humbled and inspired.