

14TH NOVEMBER - 2 BEFORE ADVENT: REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Anglican	The Anglican Church of Australia.
Hereford	Pontesbury Deanery.
Porvoo	Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church; England: Rochester.
The Wider View	Give thanks for all our diocesan links within Tanzania, and pray that visits and exchanges in both directions will soon be able to resume, without Covid restrictions.
This Week	Pray for all who serve in our armed forces , and that we continue to value the service and sacrifice offered by those who fought in the defence of our nation and its allies in the World Wars and at other times. Pray for all who build bridges of peace and understanding. Pray for the work of the Royal British Legion and for the ex-service personnel and families it is able to help and support. In Anti-Bullying Week takes place this week. Pray for all who are bullied, at school, at work or elsewhere, and for decisive action to halt and repair the damage done. In Road Safety Week , pray for the safety of all who use our roads, and for children to receive good road safety instruction. Thursday is World Pancreatic Cancer Day . This is a difficult cancer to diagnose: pray for greater awareness, and for research. Friday is World Toilet Day , which highlights the need to improve sanitation in many parts of the world. Pray for a real commitment by nations and NGO's to achieve the target of access to safe toilet facilities for all by 2030.

21ST NOVEMBER - NEXT BEFORE ADVENT: CHRIST THE KING

Anglican	The Church of Bangladesh.
Hereford	The communications team in our diocese, and all that shares the good news of our faith within our local area and beyond.
Porvoo	England: St Edmundsbury & Ipswich; Scotland: Aberdeen & Orkney.
The Wider View	Pray for Germany as, after sixteen years with Angela Merkel as Chancellor, the country enters a time of political change.
This Week	On Roadpeace Sunday , pray for those leading and organising special services, including the one at the Cathedral, and for all who will attend; pray for all affected by road traffic accidents, those bereaved and those living with injury and disability; also for emergency services personnel, funeral directors, etc. In the week that commemorates Cecilia and also the hymn-writer Isaac Watts, give thanks for all who enrich our worship by their singing, and pray for choirs preparing their Christmas music. Give thanks for the playgroups and nurseries that serve our communities, and pray for those who lead and organise them.

In the week of **Carer's Rights Day**, pray for all who care for family members and others in our communities, who often feel cut off from fellowship and help, and consider how they may be supported.

Pray for the people and churches of the United States of America, as the 400th **Thanksgiving Day** is celebrated on Thursday.

28TH NOVEMBER - ADVENT 1

Anglican	The Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil.
Hereford	Ross and Archenfield Deanery.
Porvoo	Scotland: St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane; Finland: Porvoo.
The Wider View	Pray for all in our world impacted by natural disaster, including severe weather and the changes caused by global warming. Give thanks for those who organise and co-ordinate emergency relief, as well as longer term programmes of rebuilding.
This Week	<p>As Advent begins, may the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and lives. Pray for Advent events in our churches and communities.</p> <p>At Andrew's tide, pray for mission and for the mission organisations of the Church of England and of the wider Communion.</p> <p>In the week in which Nicholas Ferrar, founder of the religious community at Little Gidding, is commemorated, pray for modern religious communities finding new ways of living simply together, in the service of Christ.</p> <p>National Tree Week reminds us of the importance of trees, and the need to look to a more sustainable way of life. Give thanks for our trees, and pray we may conserve and expand woodland areas.</p> <p>Computer Security Day on Tuesday prompts prayer for caution and care, and thought for others, in our use of IT and the web.</p> <p>World AIDS Day is Wednesday, and Thursday marks the Day for the Abolition of Slavery. Pray for the continuing campaign to combat HIV, and for effective AIDS education; also for the many people who still live in conditions of virtual slavery, and for their freedom.</p>

5TH DECEMBER - ADVENT 2

Anglican	The Anglican Church of Burundi.
Hereford	Pray for safeguarding and protection, for safeguarding training and for safe recruitment at every level of our church life.
Porvoo	England: Chester; Finland: Kuopio.
The Wider View	Pray that the easing of travel restrictions will spark a renewed interest in our links with Nuremberg, including new and exchange visits.
This Week	As well as children and pawnbrokers, Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors . Pray for the safety of those who sail the seas today, and for the Mission to Seafarers providing shelter and support.

In this week of **Ember Days**, pray for those in training for ministry, for all considering a sense of call, and for Neil Patterson and those who work with him to advise and direct.

Christmas lights are being lit in many places in support of charities. Give thanks for those who each year raise money in this way, and for those collecting in stores or on streets, perhaps while singing carols. Pray for concerts of Christmas music happening at this time. In the week of **International Mountain Day**, pray for the care and conservation of upland wild places and their wildlife.

Pray for those who work in the **retail trade**, as the Christmas rush gets under way. Pray too for families who will feel pressured to spend more than they can afford in the run-up to Christmas.

Pray for schools preparing for **nativity plays** and other Christmas activities, and for church events for families and children, such as Messy Christmas.

12TH DECEMBER - ADVENT 3

Anglican The Anglican Church of Canada.

Hereford Telford Severn Gorge Deanery.

Porvoo England: Southwell and Nottingham; Norway: Borg.

The Wider View Pray for school links between Hereford and Tanzania, especially where British Council grants are being applied for. Give thanks for the many ways in which we can support and learn from each other.

This Week On the **National Workplace Day of Remembrance**, remember all who have lost their lives at work, whatever the job they do, and pray for safety and security in the workplace.

In the week that remembers **John of the Cross**, pray for all who seek to express the life of the soul in words of poetry, and for the use of poetry in public worship and private prayer.

O Sapientia (Friday) begins the last week before Christmas, and is the first of the Great Advent Antiphons, taking the titles given to the anointed one in Old Testament scripture. Pray for our keeping of these last days of Advent.

Pray for preparation for next year's delayed **Lambeth Conference**, and for the "Big Hello" hospitality process within the various dioceses of the "home nations" in the week before the conference itself.

Pray for all who are **homeless**, in the help and support they need, and for agencies such as Shelter, Crisis, the Salvation Army and local night shelters seeking to offer help.

Pray for all who live with **addictions** of various kinds, for whom Christmas can be a particularly difficult and risky time, and for organisations and charities offering help and support to those with addictive behaviour.

19TH DECEMBER - ADVENT 4

Anglican	The Province of Central Africa.
Hereford	Pray that in all the ministry we offer we may affirm the rights, abilities and value of every person, whatever their age, gender, ethnicity or background, and that our planning, decision making and selection and appointment processes may reflect this.
Porvoo	Norway: Oslo; England: Durham; Scotland: Moray, Ross & Caithness.
The Wider View	Pray for the refugee, homeless and stateless people of our world today, for countries hosting large numbers of refugees., and for the resettlement of Afghan families here.
This Week	<p>Pray for all who will be travelling this week to be with families or friends over Christmas, and pray that they may do so safely. Pray too for those unable to be with families and friends.</p> <p>Pray for visitors to our churches over Christmas, that they may be met with warmth and welcome. Pray for pre-Christmas services and community events this week, that we may bring the message of Christmas message to those who might not receive it in church.</p> <p>Pray for those who will be working over Christmas to ensure that our essential and emergency services are functioning, and also for farmers and all who have the care of livestock.</p> <p>As the school Christmas break begins, pray for those children and families who may not be able to share in the fun and joy of the festival - some because of neglected or ill-treatment, others because families are struggling to get by.</p> <p>Pray for hospital and health staff through the winter period, and that the combination of flu, other winter ailments and the Covid virus may not swamp our health services.</p> <p>Pray for our outreach to those who spend Christmas housebound or otherwise alone, and for community and church schemes to provide a Christmas meal for those who might not otherwise have one.</p> <p>Give thanks for those who will be ringing church bells at Christmas and New Year, and for Ringers' Associations etc.</p>

CHRISTMAS

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.
Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

Robert Louis Stevenson