

has been moved forward from Pentecost to February and will be a farewell event with Archdeacon Paul. Please pray for us as we plan for this. February's weather can give cause for concern; pray that February 19th is a quiet winter's day which encourages people to come.

Fridays

- We pray for ministry to older people: for Anna Chaplains and friends, and others who minister to residents of care homes and to those who are housebound. We pray that even with restrictions there will be opportunities for contact and communication
- We pray for all schools in Bromley Deanery (and everywhere else!), and for those who have exams and mocks at the beginning of this term
- We pray for the Aquinas Trust, its Trustees and staff



Saturdays

- As we enter the New Year with its challenges and opportunities, let us pray for our friends and families, parishes and communities. Let us pray for guidance for ourselves and for our nation's leaders, both political and spiritual
- We give thanks for the Area Deans within the Archdeaconry: Jeremy Blunden in Beckenham, Victoria Park in Bromley, Adam Foot in Erith, John Musson in Orpington, and Mell Jemmett in Sidcup. We pray too for them as they face an additional burden following the retirement of the Archdeacon in March.



Compiled by Jenny Smith - prayer coordinator for the Archdeaconry of Bromley and Bexley

The Diocesan Fellowship of Prayers

'Praying the Way'

January 2022: The Archdeaconry of Bromley & Bexley

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."*

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And he led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

Poem by Minnie Louise Haskins 1908

Quoted by King George VI in the dark days of World War II



Sundays

- As the Christmas season draws to an end, we pray for time in our busy lives to dwell on the many facets of God's love in sending his Son to live among us. We pray that every day this month we will seek his presence and the strength and wisdom that come from him
- We pray for the new Community Engagement Lead, who should be starting this month. Details to be released
- We pray for the two Community Engagement Places of Welcome, which opened in 2021 at St John Sidcup and St James the Great in Blendon as they enter their first full year/



Mondays

- We continue to hold in our prayers those parishes which are in vacancy: St George Bickley, Christ Church Erith, and St Mary the Virgin Hayes. We give thanks for lay leaders as they look after these churches at a very challenging time. We pray for the churchwardens, PCC, lay ministers, and all who cover services
- There are a number of lay ministers who have health problems, are undergoing cancer therapies, or are caring for others with serious health issues. As we face a long month of cold dark days, please pray for them

Tuesdays

- We praise God for early signs of spring. We thank him for the ever-returning cycle of creation and for what this shows about his faithfulness. We thank God for his gift of hope that turns our eyes forward to expect blessing in the future

- We pray for schools returning with the uncertainties of another term and where Covid is an ongoing reality. We pray that connections between schools and churches which resumed last term will continue and grow

Wednesdays

- We give thanks for the work of the Growth Enablers in the Diocese but particularly for Abi Hiscock, whose main focus has been within Bromley & Bexley Boroughs
- With the future still very uncertain, we pray for all the parishes in our two Boroughs as they consider fresh ways of being Church in Community but recognising the Church of England's rich heritage in pastoral care, service, and the spreading of the gospel
- We pray for members of Deanery Synod and Chapter
- We pray for our retired ministers and all at Bromley College



Thursdays

- "Wise men still seek him". On 6th we celebrate the truth that pagans from a distant land sought out the child Jesus and worshipped him as king. January 6th is the Feast of the Epiphany, where we celebrate the worship of the Magi. This month may we also seek him, worship him, and pass on his love



- The Archdeaconry Lay Ministry Celebration