



DIOCESE OF YORK
PRAYER DIARY

JANUARY - MARCH 2024



www.dioceseofyork.org.uk



Wydale begins 2024 programme

The Diocese of York's Retreat House, Wydale Hall, has published its 2024 programme, shaped around the diocesan Rhythm of Life. Wydale Hall has been the diocesan retreat house since the early 1960s, and is considered a home-from-home to hundreds of people who come to Wydale to train, learn, relax, retreat, laugh, cry and hear God. Wydale hosts about 10,000 people a year for residential and day events, and is a core of our diocese as a prayerful community renewing the church's mission.

Each year, Wydale offers a rich programme, and the newly published programme for 2024 reflects the diocesan Rhythm of Life. Underpinned by the diocesan vision of Living Christ's Story, the programme follows this pattern of holy living through events are designed to help with understanding the bible better, with worship, with prayer and with learning how to be a better disciple of Jesus Christ. Most events are day-long teaching, retreat and quiet days, whilst some events are residential.

Wydale's General Manager Mark Rance says, "Wydale is often described as a 'thin' place. We think what this means is that at Wydale people find a place where they feel closer to God, and where the separation between God and us

seems less - perhaps some of this is to do with the fact that on coming to Wydale people are committing to moving out of their normal lives for a few hours, committing to spending time seeking God, to growing with him.

"Wydale has been a holy place for most of its 240+ years makes it important to people - there has been prayer and worship here for many years and we hope it shows.

"We at Wydale are excited by the variety of events we're able to offer in 2024, and we're excited that there are practical ways in which people can explore what it means to be community - in the wider sense and closer to home with the Wydale community.

"We're also excited that this year's beautifully presented programme of events also includes some interesting articles on the history of Wydale, its community, how Wydale is part of the Diocesan vision, and even something from a Bishop about the practice of retreating!"

You can explore the 2024 programme on Wydale's website: www.wydale.org/events Places can be booked for events by completing booking forms on the Wydale website, or by phoning 01723 859270.

Anglican Communion

The Anglican Communion is a family of 42 autonomous and independent-yet-interdependent national, pan-national and regional churches in communion with the see of Canterbury. Through the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, Anglicans around the world have been united in praying on the same day for the same dioceses. Day by day, Monday to Saturday, we join in prayer for particular dioceses. And on Sundays, we pray mainly for provinces - and occasionally for other specific prayer biddings.

Find out more at anglicancommunion.org

Ember Days

An Ember Day is a day on which we pray for those who serve the Church in its various ministries, both ordained and lay, and for vocations.

Stories

The news pages in this prayer diary celebrate how we are Living Christ's Story across our diocesan family, and are there to help us to pray for and with one another. If you have any stories you'd like to share for future editions of the Prayer Diary, please contact our Diocesan Discipleship Adviser on sammi.tooze@yorkdiocese.org.

Useful Links

Archbishop of York: archbishopofyork.org

The Church of England: churchofengland.org

Contact

If you have any questions or comments, please email us on: prayerdiary@yorkdiocese.org.

The contribution of Avril Rhodes in compiling this diary is gratefully acknowledged.



Follow our daily prayers on social media @DioceseOfYork and on our website: www.dioceseofyork.org.uk/prayerdiary.





About the Prayer Diary

How to use this Prayer Dairy

This Prayer Diary is for everyone across the Diocese of York. You are welcome to use it in whatever way suits you best - as a personal pattern of prayer, as part of your church community or prayer group, within Intercessions, or through storytelling and social media. We'd love to hear how you use this prayer diary - do get in touch if there's any feedback you'd like to share!

Praying for the Whole People of God

In our Prayer Diary, we pray each day for churches, schools and other communities across our diocese. When we do this, we pray for the whole people of God in that place - all those who lead and serve, those who worship, and those in the wider community.

Diocesan South African Link

The Diocese of York is twinned with three Dioceses in South Africa - Cape Town, False Bay and Saldanha Bay. The Diocese of Saldanha Bay is linked with the Archdeaconry of York, False Bay with the Archdeaconry of Cleveland, and the Diocese of Cape Town with the Archdeaconry of East Riding. The purpose of the link is to encourage one another, in a mutual concern to help each other in our mission to make Christ's love known. We are committing to pray for communities in South Africa each week in our Diocesan Prayer Diary.

Porvoo Communion

The Porvoo Communion is a communion of 15 Anglican and Evangelical Lutheran churches in Europe. The communion was established in 1992 by a theological agreement entitled the Porvoo Common Statement which establishes full communion between and among these churches. The Porvoo Declaration commits the churches which have signed it 'to share a common life' and 'to pray for and with one another'. An important way of doing this is to pray through the year for the Porvoo churches and their Dioceses.

Find out more at porvoo communion.org

January

31st December - 6th January

The Porvoo Declaration commits the churches which have signed it 'to share a common life' and 'to pray for and with one another'. An important way of doing this is to pray through the year for the Porvoo churches and their Dioceses. We pray for the Porvoo Communion, and all its members, for the year ahead.

Diocese of False Bay; for its diocesan office, staff, and all who work, minister and serve in that place

[Porvoo Communion](#)

[South Africa Diocesan Link](#)

- Sun 31** **The First Sunday of Christmas**
God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Mon 1** **Pray for:** St Margaret, Brookfield; St Peter, Hilton; St Peter and Paul, Stainton-in-Cleveland
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Bor, Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan
- Tues 2** **Calendar of Saints:** Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishops, Teachers of the Faith, 379 and 389. Seraphim, Monk of Sarov, Spiritual Guide, 1833. Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, Bishop in South India, Evangelist, 1945
Pray for: All Saints, Great Ayton; Christ Church, Great Ayton; St Oswald, Newton under Roseberry
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Botswana, The Church of the Province of Central Africa
- Weds 3** **Pray for:** St Francis of Assisi, Ingleby Barwick
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Brandon, The Anglican Church of Canada
- Thurs 4** **Pray for:** St Hilda, Bilsdale Priory; St Andrew, Ingleby Greenhow; St Cuthbert, Kildale; St Augustine, Kirkby-in-Cleveland
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Brechin, The Scottish Episcopal Church
- Fri 5** **Pray for:** St Mary's, Nunthorpe
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Brisbane, The Anglican Church of Australia
- Sat 6** **Epiphany**
Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Bristol, The Church of England



A New Year, New Beginnings

Mandy Coutts; Diocesan Start of Ordained Ministries Adviser, reflects on the upcoming priest ordinations taking place across the diocese this Epiphany.

One of the many joys of the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany season is the intergenerational and economically diverse and multicultural groups of people that enrich the stories that are told.

From the youngest to the oldest, from the homeless to the those of respectability and affluence, all are there, faithfully seeking, and following God. The stories are full of drama with angels and stars, camels, and sheep, yet at the heart of every story is the willingness to say 'Yes' to the invitation.

Each story of faith reminds us, that in God's eyes we are all called, regardless of our age, gender or anything else that in today's society has the potential to limit us. God's call has no limits. This Epiphany eight deacons will be priested. Between them they have an average age of 70, the eldest is 78, they are living proof, that when we have the courage to say 'Yes' to God's invitation there are no limits to what God can do through us.

As we pray for them, we also pray that this New Year each one of us will also say 'Yes' to God's invitation to make ourselves available to his plans.

'Priests are ordained to lead God's people in the offering of praise and the proclamation of the gospel. They share with the Bishop in the oversight of the Church, delighting in its beauty and rejoicing in its well-being. They are to set the example of the Good Shepherd always before them as the pattern of their calling. With the Bishop and their fellow presbyters, they are to sustain the community of the faithful by the ministry of word and sacrament, that we all may grow into the fullness of Christ and be a living sacrifice acceptable to God.'

- From Common Worship Ordination Services

Please pray for the following people to be ordained Priest this Epiphany:

Kath Dean
Jane Emson
David Haddon-Reece
Diane Berry
Shirley Hebden
Kingsley Boulton
Bronnie Broadhurst
Andy Hagon

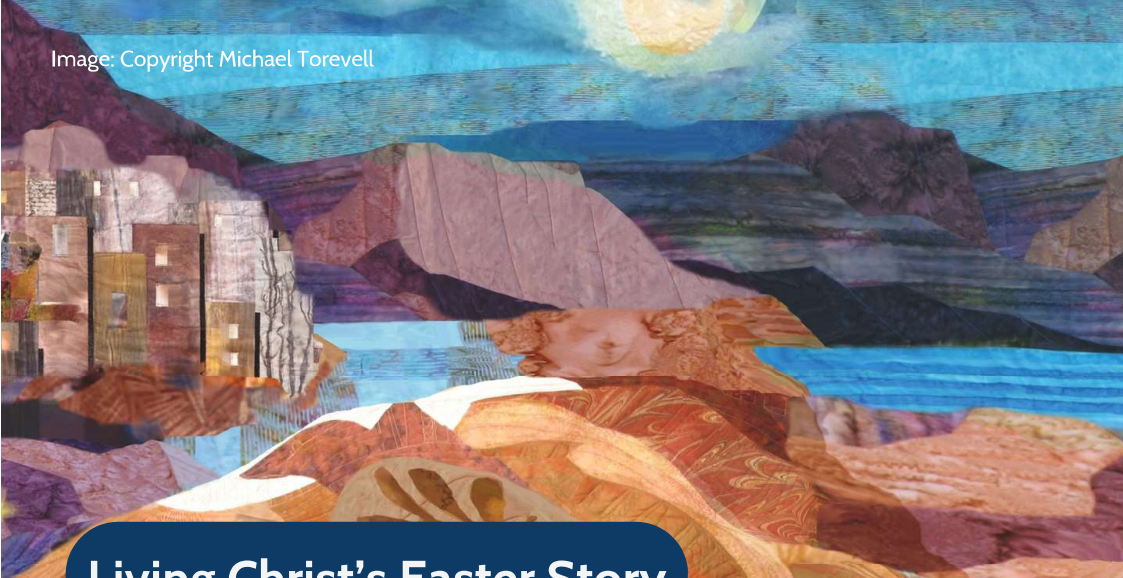
Church of Ireland: Diocese of Armagh,
Archbishop John McDowell
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark: Diocese of Funen,
Bishop Mads Davidsen

**Synod of Bishops of
Southern Africa**

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

- Sun 31** **Easter Day**
God of glory,
by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Anglican Communion: The Church in the Province of the West Indies
- Mon 1** **Calendar of Saints: The Martyrs of Japan, 1597**
Pray for: Diocese of Sodor and Man; Cathedral Isle of Man
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Damaturu, The Church of Nigeria
- Tues 2** **Pray for:** Bishopthorpe Palace
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Dar-es-Salaam, The Anglican Church of Tanzania
- Weds 3** **Pray for:** University of York; Chaplaincy and students
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Davao, The Episcopal Church in the Philippines
- Thurs 4** **Pray for:** St Margaret, Brotton Parva
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Saint David, The Church in Wales
- Fri 5** **Pray for:** Christ Church, Coatham; All Saints, Dormanstown
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Delaware, The Episcopal Church
- Sat 6** **Calendar of Saints: Scholastica, sister of Benedict, Abbess of Plombariola, c.543**
Pray for: All Saints, Easington; St Hilda, Liverton Mine; St Michael, Liverton
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Delhi, The Church of North India (United)



Living Christ's Easter Story

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, reflects on the Easter Story.

The Easter Story invites us to rest in the compassion of Jesus, something that we are badly in need of in our world at the moment. The risen Christ is not one who is far-removed from the human experience; instead, he continues to walk alongside those he loves.

Mary Magdalene was the first. Early in the morning, while it was still dark, she discovered the empty tomb. In her distress and confusion, she ran to her friends to tell them. Eventually she ends up in the garden alone. Jesus comes alongside her. He speaks to her: 'Woman, why are you weeping?' But she only recognises him when he says her name.

Perhaps it is the same with us? We only know Jesus, when we know that he knows us, when we find him alongside us, gently, compassionately calling our name.

Easter is a renewed invitation to come into Christ's presence, to surrender yourself to him,

and then to go and tell others what it is that you find. Mary and the disciples did not keep the good news to themselves. They went courageously and boldly to continue telling the story that Jesus had started to tell. And, just as Jesus commissioned the disciples, so too are we commissioned through our baptism.

We are invited to participate in God's mission and ministry, sharing the good news, offering gracious and generous hospitality, seeking to make known God's peace and love known in this world, living Christ's story.

Lord of all life and power,
 who through the mighty
 resurrection of your Son
 overcame the old order of sin and death
 to make all things new in him:
 grant that we, being dead to sin
 and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
 may reign with him in glory;
 to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
 be praise and honour, glory and might,
 now and in all eternity.

Church of England: Diocese of London, Bishop Sarah Mullally, Bishop Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy, Bishop Emma Ineson, vacancy – Bishop of Edmonton, Bishop Jonathan Baker, Bishop Ric Thorpe, Bishop Joanne Grenfell.

Church of Norway: Diocese of Nidaros and Trondheim, Presiding Bishop Olav Fykse Tveit, Bishop Herborg Oline Finnset

HOPE Africa.

Hope Africa is the Anglican Church's response to poverty and inequality in society. Its work focuses on building sustainable Partnerships, Capacity Building, Public Policy and Advocacy, and providing support and guidance to community projects.

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

- Sun 7** **The First Sunday of Epiphany and the Baptism of Christ**
 Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Anglican Communion: The Scottish Episcopal Church
- Mon 8** **Pray for:** St Peter and St Paul, Stokesley; St Martin, Seamer-in-Cleveland
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of British Columbia, The Anglican Church of Canada
- Tues 9** **Pray for:** The Whorlton Group: Holy Cross, Swainby-Whorlton; St Botolph, Carlton-in-Cleveland; St Cuthbert, Middleton-on-Leven; St Mary Magdalene, Faceby; All Saints, Crathorne; St Mary, Potto; All Saints, Rudby-in-Cleveland; Holy Cross Old Church, Whorlton
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Central Buganda, The Church of the Province of Uganda
- Weds 10** **Calendar of Saints:** William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645
Pray for: St Mary Magdalene, Yarm; St Martin and St Hilary, Kirkclevington; All Saints, Picton and Worsall
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Central Buganda, The Church of the Province of Uganda
- Thurs 11** **Calendar of Saints:** Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915
Pray for: Schools within Stokesley Deanery: Bilsdale, Midcable CE School; Carlton & Faceby CE School; Ingleby Barwick CE Sec. Academy; Ingleby Greenhow CE School; Kirkby & Gt Broughton CE School; Marwood CE Infant School; St Francis Ingleby Barwick CE Primary School
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Buhiga, The Anglican Church of Burundi
- Fri 12** **Calendar of Saints:** Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167. Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, Scholar, 689
Pray for: Retired clergy in the diocese, diocesan clergy retirement and widow(ers) officers; clergy with PTO
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Bujumbura, The Anglican Church of Burundi
- Sat 13** **Calendar of Saints:** Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher of the Faith, 367. Kentigern (Mungo), Missionary Bishop in Strathclyde and Cumbria, 603. George Fox, Founder of the Society of Friends (the Quakers), 1691
Pray for: Diocesan Office
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Bukavu, Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo



Back-to-School in South Africa

The Revd Canon Sue Binks, Diocesan Link Officer for the Diocese of False Bay.

The Back-to-School Service in January at St Peter's, Kleinvele in False Bay Diocese after the long Summer and Christmas Vacation is a meaningful opportunity for the local Church to minister and engage with children, young people and families. Clergy, Choir, Governors and the Congregation come to Church in school uniform; it's a riot of colours, stripes, bursting seams and knee-high socks and school ties.

Some will proudly wear the uniform of their new school for the first time; those who left school many decades ago will have scoured cupboards and charity shops to find knee-high socks and blazers. Many church members will have been working with the students in education, health care and social services and they too will be prayed for. Here is a real sense of ubuntu – community – truly lived out to support, guard and guide this up-and-coming generation.

The Revd Nitano says, "As a Parish we believe education is the most empowering force in the world and we are serious in supporting our young people overcome their difficult

circumstances to reach their full potential". The Church Family provides each Learner with a bag of essentials – paper, pens, data and hygiene products. Many have little themselves but give generously what they can. Above all they give the young people value, encouraging them to seize every opportunity, to have dreams, to know the power of possibility.

The service is bursting with laughter; the Rector is transformed into a teenager, 'aunties' and 'uncles' share their stories, recalling happy times, tight scrapes and teachers. They poignantly recall the difficulties and challenges of the apartheid era, and there's sadness that contemporary South Africa faces high levels of youth unemployment, gender violence and the daily disruption of loadshedding.

The Church Building offers safe space for learners to study and do their homework, Holiday Clubs, and snacks provided by parishioners. As the Academic Year draws to a close the Diocese provides practical and spiritual resources for Grade 12 students taking the 'Matric' exams that are their gateway to tertiary education.

God of compassion and wisdom, you see your children growing up in an uncertain and confusing world; show them the path of life. Help us to protect the wellbeing of every child born into our world so that each may live to realise their destiny. We thank you for the wonder of our minds and bodies. Be with our children and young people as they begin a new school year. Bless their teachers and staff and give them strength and grace as their bodies grow in wisdom and knowledge, and as they seek understanding, peace and zeal in their hearts. Amen.

March

24th - 30th March
Holy Week

Church of Sweden: Diocese of Lund, Bishop Johan Tyrberg

Church of Ireland: Diocese of Cashel, Ossory and Ferns,
Bishop Adrian Wilkinson

Church of England: Diocese of Ely, vacancy – Bishop of Ely,
Bishop Dagmar Winter

Schools in the Diocese of False Bay;
for students, for children and young
people, for teachers and for staff

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 24 Palm Sunday

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory.
Anglican Communion: The Church of the Province of West Africa

Mon 25 Monday of Holy Week

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Cyanguu, Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda

Tues 26 Tuesday of Holy Week

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and The Middle East

Weds 27 Wednesday of Holy Week

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Daejeon, The Anglican Church of Korea

Thurs 28 Maundy Thursday

God our Father,
your Son Jesus Christ was obedient to the end and drank the cup prepared for him:
may we who share his table watch with him through the night of suffering
and be faithful.
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of North Dakota, The Episcopal Church

Fri 29 Good Friday

Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus we see the cost of our sin and the depth of your love:
in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet all that we have and all that we are,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of South Dakota, The Episcopal Church

Sat 30 Easter Eve

In the depths of our isolation we cry to you, Lord God:
give light in our darkness and bring us out of the prison of our despair;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Dallas, The Episcopal Church



Caring for Creation: Churchyard of the Year Award

St Oswald's Church at Newton under Roseberry won the North & East Yorkshire's Best Churchyard Competition for 2023.

The Competition is run by the Council for the Protection of Rural England and looks to how Churchyards are being cared for and managed, as well as all the community involvement.

There were three Churches on the shortlist; the CPRE judge said, "I did manage to visit all three Churchyards a number of times as seasonality is key. St Oswald's, Newton under Roseberry, however just had the edge in the competition with all judges in agreement. Simply put, a classic country churchyard, exemplifying seasonality and community work."

Vicar the Revd Canon Paul Peverell said, "Big thanks to John Stinson who has led this work, involving others in building bird boxes, sowing seeds, planting Trees, composting waste, knowing when not to cut the grass so we can spot the wildflowers and see the visiting birds."

Find out more about the work of the CPRE at www.cpre.org.uk

A Song for Creation

The spacious firmament on high,
with all the blue ethereal sky,
and spangled heavens, a shining frame,
their great Original proclaim.
The unwearied sun from day to day
does his Creator's power display,
and publishes to every land
the works of an almighty hand.
Soon as the evening shades prevail
the moon takes up the wondrous tale,
and nightly to the listening earth
repeats the story of her birth;
Whilst all the stars that round her burn,
and all the planets in their turn,
confirm the tidings, as they roll,
and spread the truth from pole to pole.
What though in solemn silence all
move round the dark terrestrial ball;
what though nor real voice nor sound
amid their radiant orbs be found;
In reason's ear they all rejoice,
and utter forth a glorious voice;
for ever singing as they shine,
'the hand that made us is divine.'

January

14th - 20th January

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:

Diocese of Oulu, Bishop Jukka Keskitalo

Church of Norway:

Diocese of Sør-Hålogaland (Bodø), Bishop Svein Valle

Church of England: Diocese of Coventry, vacancy –
Bishop of Coventry, vacancy – Bishop of Warwick.

Diocese of Cape Town; for its diocesan office, staff, and all who work, minister and serve in that place, Prayers for the East Riding Archdeaconry for deepening links with Cape Town, for mutual working to understanding of each others understanding of the Gospel, and for growth and nurture in the work with young people in both places.

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 14 The Second Sunday of Epiphany

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end:

bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Anglican Communion: Church of the Province of South East Asia

Mon 15 Pray for: Sports Chaplaincy

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Bukedi, The Church of the Province of Uganda

Tues 16 Pray for: Archbishop's Advisor and Coordinator of Pastoral Care

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Bukuru, The Church of Nigeria

Weds 17 Calendar of Saints: Antony of Egypt, Hermit, Abbot, 356.

Charles Gore, Bishop, Founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932

Pray for: York Diocesan Leadership Team

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Bunbury, The Anglican Church of Australia

Thurs 18 Calendar of Saints: Amy Carmichael, Founder of the Dohnavur Fellowship, spiritual writer, 1951

First Day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Pray for: Kirklevington Grange Prison

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Bungoma, The Anglican Church of Kenya

Fri 19 Calendar of Saints: Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095

Pray for: Diocesan South Africa Companion Link; Dioceses of Cape Town, False Bay and Saldanha Bay

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Bungoma, The Anglican Church of Kenya

Sat 20 Calendar of Saints: Richard Rolle of Hampole, Spiritual Writer, 1349

Pray for: York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: including York, Scarborough and Bridlington Hospitals, Malton Community, New Selby War Memorial, Nelson's Court, St Monica's Easingwold and White Cross Court.

St Leonard's Hospice, York, St Catherine's Hospice, Scarborough and Herriot Hospice at the Lambert, Thirsk

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Busan, The Anglican Church of Korea



Marking Holocaust Memorial

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place on 27th January each year and commemorates the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

On HMD we remember past lessons and recognise that genocide is a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented. In the UK we are not at immediate risk of genocide, but discrimination has not ended, nor has the use of the language of hatred or exclusion.

There is much to do to create a safer future and HMD is an opportunity to start this process.

'Fragility of Freedom' is the theme for 2024's Holocaust Memorial Day; in every genocide, those who are targeted have had their freedom restricted and removed, before many of them are murdered.

Canon Missioner at York Minster, Maggie McLean, writes: "York Minster's act of commemoration, including the lighting of 600 candles in the Chapter House is part of a week-long programme of events that takes place across the City of York to mark international Holocaust Memorial Day.

"For ten years the Minster has provided a space for people of all faiths and none to come together to remember the Nazi Persecution and the genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, in the hope that there may be a day in the future with no genocide.

"We learn more about the past, we empathise with others today, and we take action for a better future."

Loving God, we come to you with heavy hearts, remembering the six million Jewish souls murdered during the Holocaust.

In the horrors of that history, when so many groups were targeted because of their identity, and in genocides which followed, we recognise destructive prejudices that drive people apart. Forgive us when we give space to fear, negativity and hatred of others, simply because they are different from us.

In the light of God, we see everyone as equally precious manifestations of the Divine, and can know the courage to face the darkness.

Through our prayers and actions, help us to stand together with those who are suffering, so that light may banish all darkness, love will prevail over hate and good will triumph over evil. Amen.

March

17th - 23rd March

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia: Archbishop Jānis Vanags,
Bishop Einārs Alpe, Bishop Hanss Martins Jensonis,
Bishop Rinalds Grants, Bishop Uldis Gailītis

Church of England: Diocese of Lichfield, Bishop Michael Ipgrave,
Bishop Sarah Bullock, Bishop Matthew Parker, Bishop Paul Thornton

Church in Wales: Diocese of St David's, Bishop Dorrien Davies

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba;
Archbishop Cape Town and
Primate of Southern Africa

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 17 The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Gracious Father,

you gave up your Son out of love for the world:

lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Anglican Communion: The Church in Wales

Mon 18 Calendar of Saints: Cyril, Bishop of Jerusalem, Teacher of the Faith, 386

Pray for: St Martin-on-the-Hill, Scarborough; St Michael and All Angels, Wheatcroft; St Saviour with All Saints, Scarborough

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Costa Rica, Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America

Tues 19 Calendar of Saints: Joseph of Nazareth

Pray for: St Mary with Christ Church and Holy Apostles, Scarborough

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Coventry, The Church of England

Weds 20 Calendar of Saints: Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 687

Pray for: St Martin, Seamer; St John the Baptist, East Ayton; St John the Baptist, Cayton

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Cuba, The Episcopal Church

Thurs 21 Calendar of Saints: Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, Reformation Martyr, 1556

Pray for: Schools in Scarborough Deanery: Filey CE Infants, Hackness CE, Hertford Vale CE, Scarborough St Martins CE

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Cueibet, Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

Fri 22 Pray for: World Water Day 2024

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Cuernavaca, La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico

Sat 23 Pray for: School Holiday Clubs; families during Easter Holidays

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Cuttack, The Church of North India (United)



Loftus Parish Church grows ministry with young people

The Revd Adam Gaunt shares the story of the development of the choir in Loftus Parish Church.

In 2011 Loftus Parish made the decision to reestablish a Sunday School! Inevitably, it was easily said, but not so easily done; however, in February 2015 our Sunday School began with two children, soon attracting a number of others and not only from families with an established connection with their parish church.

At a similar time we were thinking about the music we offered in Loftus for weekly worship. In 2016 the PCC appointed a new Director of Music. Consequently, on Sunday 18th September 2016 a new church choir sang in Saint Leonard's Church Loftus-in-Cleveland for the first time since the old choir disbanded in 1969!

Although the pandemic years have inevitable had an impact on parish life, in 2023 we now have fourteen signed-up members of our church choir, and with Sunday School and Servers we regularly see over fifteen children in church on a Sunday.

Above is our group photograph from our patronal festival, Saint Leonard's Day in November 2023! It is a joy to be able to welcome so many young people in our church community, and see them grow in faith through music and in Sunday School.

Please pray for the
Sunday School and
Church Choir of
Saint Leonard's Church
in Loftus.

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:
Diocese of Tampere, Bishop Matti Repo
Church of England: Diocese of Manchester, Bishop David Walker, Bishop Matthew Porter, Bishop Mark Davies

Anglicans Ablaze: a group of organisations within the Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA) who desire to be set ablaze with God's love and power in order to build up the church and to serve God in the world

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

- Sun 21** **The Third Sunday of Epiphany and Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**
Lord Jesus, who prayed that all might be one, we pray to you for the unity of all Christians, according to your will, according to your means. May your Spirit enable us to experience the suffering caused by division, to see our sin and to hope beyond all hope. Amen.
Anglican Communion: Church of the Province of South East Asia
- Mon 22** **Calendar of Saints: Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, first Martyr of Spain, 304**
Pray for: Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust: providing mental health services across the Diocese for people with mental health conditions and learning disabilities
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Busoga, The Church of the Province of Uganda
- Tues 23** **Pray for:** The Archbishop of York
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Central Busoga, The Church of the Province of Uganda
- Weds 24** **Calendar of Saints: Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher of the Faith, 1622**
Pray for: Diocese of Durham; Durham Cathedral
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Butare, Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda
- Thurs 25** **Calendar of Saints: The Conversion of Paul**
Last Day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Pray for: Christ Church, Eston; St George, Normanby
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Butere, The Anglican Church of Kenya
- Fri 26** **Calendar of Saints: Timothy and Titus, Companions of Paul**
Pray for: St Hilda of Whitby, Grangetown
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Buye, The Anglican Church of Burundi
- Sat 27** **Holocaust Memorial Day**
Loving God, we come to you with heavy hearts, remembering the six million Jewish souls murdered during the Holocaust. In the horrors of that history, we recognise destructive prejudices that drive people apart. Forgive us when we give space to fear, negativity and hatred of others, simply because they are different from us. Through our prayers and actions, help us to stand together with those who are suffering, so that light may banish all darkness, love will prevail over hate and good will triumph over evil. Amen.
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Byumba, Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda



Following God's call in Eston and Normanby

The Revd Graham Potter, Rector of Eston with Normanby, shares his reflections on exploring God's vision and calling within the parish.

I moved into the parish in September 2021 just as we were starting to emerge from the covid restrictions. Most of the usual ministries the parish was involved in had not resumed. And the numbers of available people to run them had decreased. So when asked if certain events could resume my go to questions were: 'who is it for' and why do we do it?

Like most churches post-covid, we didn't have the people to pick up where left off. So these questions were important to make sure we were being effective rather than just busy. When asked if we could restart the weekly coffee morning at Christchurch, I posed those two questions. The answers were telling. About 12 regulars and they are all friends. My reply was to suggest that they went to Costa because the coffee was nicer, and you can get cake! This was met with surprised looks. I went on to suggest that if they wished to provide a safe space where the local community could gather and re-learn how to be together in groups again then I would be happy to discuss how we could achieve this. Fortunately, Costa lost out and we embraced the idea of the coffee morning becoming a space for the local community to gather. The '12' is now regularly 50 to 60 and has been 70.

We meet in the church which now has become a familiar space for newcomers.

While reflecting on how well the coffee morning was running, I realised that many of us had forgotten what it meant to be a follower of Jesus and that a focused sermon series on following Jesus would be a Good thing to do. I discussed this with my preaching team and readers, who agreed to join in, and we followed the Jesus Shaped People series, which is described as a 'whole church discipleship adventure'. Over the 15 weeks of the course, you look at five priorities of Jesus. How he engaged with people, how he taught them, how he built teams, how he prayed and how he prophetically challenged the society around him. All the course linked materials are free and cover sermon outlines, children and youth materials, and small group study guides. My preaching team, who hadn't been asked to preach a series before, stepped up to the challenge.

The outcome of following Jesus Shaped People which refocused our minds on what it means to be a follower of Jesus, was five church members completing the Stepping Up course, a new vision of how our church buildings can be used for the benefit of the community (which included a large £150k repair and upgrade project), a generous and successful gift day for fund the repairs, and a renewed sense of mission in the parish.

Church of England: Diocese of Chelmsford, Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop Roger Morris, Bishop Peter Hill
Church of Sweden: Diocese of Karlstad, Bishop Sören Dalevi

Archdeaconry of Paarl;
 Diocese of Saldanha Bay

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

- Sun 10 Mothering Sunday**
 God of love,
 passionate and strong, tender and careful:
 watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Anglican Communion: The Episcopal Church
- Mon 11 Pray for:** St John the Evangelist, Filey; St Oswald, Filey; St Thomas, Gristhorpe
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Colombo, The Church of Ceylon (Extra Provincial)
- Tues 12 Pray for:** The North Scarborough Group (2): St Laurence, Scalby; St Peter, Hackness; St Margaret, Harwood Dale
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Colorado, The Episcopal Church
- Weds 13 Pray for:** Hertford benefice: St John, Folkton; St Nicholas, Ganton; St Peter, Willerby, All Saints, Hunmanby; All Saints, Muston
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Congo Brazzaville, Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo
- Thurs 14 Pray for:** The North Scarborough Group (3); St Mark, Newby; St Luke, Scarborough
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Connecticut, The Episcopal Church
- Fri 15 Pray for:** St Columba, Scarborough; St James with Holy Trinity, Scarborough
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Connor, The Church of Ireland
- Sat 16 Pray for:** Diocesan Synod, which meets today
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, The Church of Ireland



Discipleship in Bridlington Deanery

The Revd Mark Carey reflects on shaping the Community of Practice in Bridlington Deanery.

When it comes to creating a Bridlington Deanery plan there has been a desire to do some new things to encourage growth in confidence in being missionary disciples. It was clear that with 21 churches, 17 parishes, serving 41,964 people there is a lot of learning to do especially with significant diversity of spirituality and forms of worshipping communities.

With these thoughts in mind, we chose to hold a Deanery Community of Practice twice a year, 9am-2pm on a Saturday. With a simple, facilitated process enabling us to share our experience of growing in discipleship and mission, our successes and failures, weaknesses and opportunities, we have found a very encouraging way forward.

During September we held our second Community of Practice – 35 people, 5 different teams – great input from The Revd Matt Woodcock (pictured above), and the

encouragement to identify the small steps we can take towards growing in more confident in discipleship in our churches, parishes, homes and workplaces.

It is good to be involved in something that is simple and straightforward, that doesn't add to the complexities of ministry but rather draws us back to the heart of it all and renews our vision for becoming more like Christ.

God our loving Father,
 you have called your Church
 into being in your love
 and strengthened us for your service.
 Guide and inspire us
 as we seek to re-shape our approach
 to mission and ministry in our diocese;
 that we may be a joyful Church
 of missionary disciples,
 one in heart and mind;
 for the sake of your kingdom,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 Amen.

February

28th January – 3rd February

Church of England: Diocese of Birmingham, Bishop Michael

Volland, Bishop Anne Hollinghurst

Church of Ireland: Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross,

Bishop Paul Colton

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:

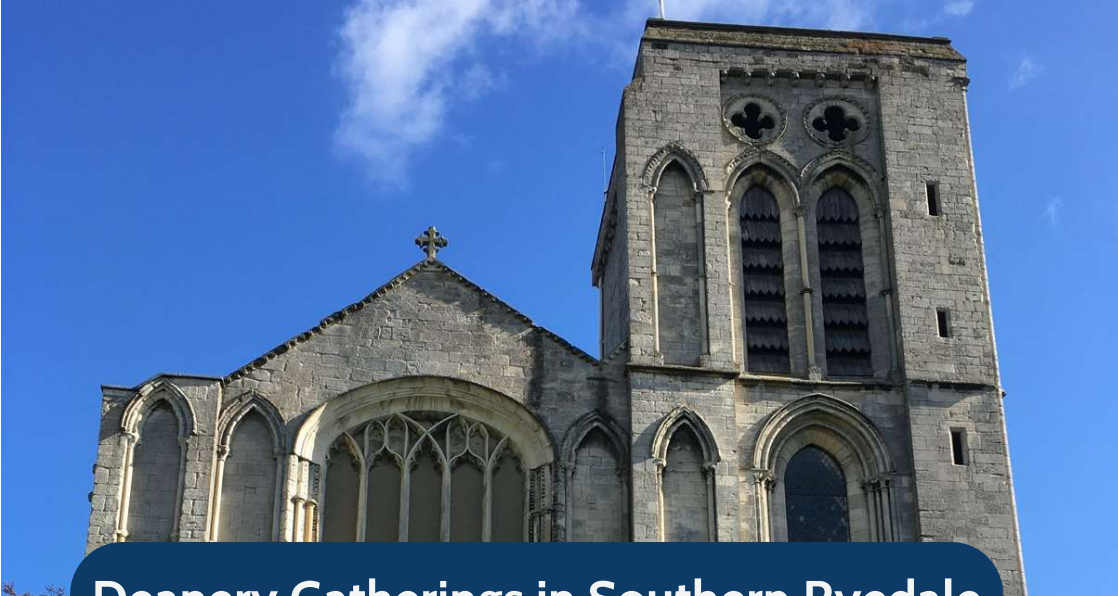
Diocese of Elsinore, Bishop Peter Birch

Diocese of Saldanha Bay; for its diocesan office, staff., and all who work, minister and serve in that place

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

- Sun 28** **The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**
 God of heaven,
 you send the gospel to the ends of the earth and your messengers to every nation:
 send your Holy Spirit to transform us by the good news of everlasting life
 in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Southern Africa
- Mon 29** **Pray for:** St Barnabas, Linthorpe
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Calabar, The Church of Nigeria
- Tues 30** **Calendar of Saints: Charles, King and Martyr, 1649**
Pray for: St Cuthbert Marton with Easterside
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Calcutta, The Church of North India (United)
- Weds 31** **Calendar of Saints: John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888**
Pray for: All Saints, Middlesbrough
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Caledonia, The Anglican Church of Canada
- Thurs 1** **Calendar of Saints: Brigid, Abbess of Kildare, c.525**
Pray for: St Columba with St Paul, Middlesbrough; St John the Evangelist, Middlesbrough
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Calgary, The Anglican Church of Canada
- Fri 2** **The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)**
Pray for: St Oswald and St Chad, Middlesbrough
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of California, The Episcopal Church
- Sat 3** **Calendar of Saints: Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg, Missionary in Denmark and Sweden, 865**
Pray for: St John the Evangelist, South Bank and St Thomas the Apostle, Brambles Farm
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Northern California, The Episcopal Church



Deanery Gatherings in Southern Ryedale

Sue Teal and The Revd Nicky Penn-Allison share about recent Deanery Gatherings in Southern Ryedale.

Southern Ryedale Deanery is part of the York Archdeaconry family in a beautiful area of North Yorkshire. The Deanery looks a bit like a butterfly as we have two wings made up of three rural benefices to the east and west of a central body which comprises two parishes in the market towns of Malton and Norton.

As we cover a large geographical area, and church settings from the urban to the deeply rural, we have created opportunities to bring people together in Deanery Gatherings. Everyone is invited and we use them as a way to worship, discuss, tell stories, share experiences and learn together as part of a bigger community than that offered by Deanery Synod. As part of our Living Christ's Story journey our theme is Growing God's Kingdom and recently we have taken advantage of the expertise offered by diocesan personnel to come to our Gatherings as we seek to move forward and grow.

We have some very loyal attendees at our Gatherings but recently our numbers have been smaller. So we have decided to pause whilst we reflect and consult on what people want the Gatherings to be – currently we run evening events but we are keen to explore study days or short courses for example, making use of the varied and enthusiastic expertise we have in our Deanery. Although formal Gatherings are paused we are running a Deanery Advent course focused on prayer which is in effect a Gathering in another form! We're looking forward to discerning what God next has in store for us across our deanery.

Please hold Southern Ryedale Deanery in your prayers as we move forward with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Pray for Rev Nicky Penn-Allison and Sue Teal as our Area and Lay Deans, our wonderful DLT and Deanery Synod members as well as every person who is part of our Deanery family.

Church of England: Diocese of Canterbury,
Archbishop Justin Welby, Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin
Church of Ireland: Diocese of Down and Dromore,
Bishop David McClay

Provincial Synod of
Southern Africa

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

- Sun 3** **The Third Sunday of Lent**
Eternal God,
give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Anglican Communion: The Church of the Province of Uganda
- Mon 4** **Pray for:** St Helen, Escrick; St Matthew, Naburn; St Helen, Stillingfleet
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Chubu, The Nippon Sei Ko Kai
- Tues 5** **Pray for:** Schools in Derwent Deanery: Dunnington CE; Elvington CE; Escrick CE; Naburn CE; Sutton-upon-Derwent CE; Warhill CE; Wheldrake with Thorganby CE; Queen Margaret's School, Escrick
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Clogher, The Church of Ireland
- Weds 6** **Pray for:** Diocese of Manchester, Manchester Cathedral
Anglican Communion: The Diocese on the Coast, The Church of Nigeria
- Thurs 7** **Calendar of Saints: Perpetua, Felicity and their Companions, Martyrs at Carthage, 203**
Pray for: The North Scarborough Group (1): St John the Baptist, Staintondale; St Hilda, Ravenscar; St Mary, Cloughton
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Cochin, The Church of South India (United)
- Fri 8** **Calendar of Saints: Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln, 1910. Felix, Bishop, Apostle to the East Angles, 647. Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, Priest, Poet, 1929.**
Pray for: International Women's Day
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Coimbatore, The Church of South India (United)
- Sat 9** **Pray for:** Holy Nativity, Eastfield; Westway Open Arms, Eastfield
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Colombia, The Episcopal Church



Praying for our Church of England Schools

Andrew Smith, Diocesan Director of Education shares a reflection on the schools in our diocese.

There are 122 Church of England Schools in the Diocese of York.

Each one of these schools has a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) inspection once in a five-year period.

SIAMS inspection explores the ways in which each school's theologically rooted Christian vision drives its work and enables the school to live up to its foundation as a Church school. It does so by seeking to answer several key questions, including:

- How does the school's theologically rooted Christian vision enable pupils and adults to flourish?
- How is collective worship enabling pupils and adults to flourish spiritually?
- How does the school's theologically rooted Christian vision create a culture in which pupils and adults are treated well?

SIAMS inspection focuses on the impact of the Church school's Christian vision on pupils and adults.

A few quotes from recent inspections in the Diocese of York:

- "The Christian vision with its strong biblical roots is clearly understood and articulated by the whole school community. Led by a passionate headteacher, leaders ensure the vision is at the core of every aspect of school life."
- "Inspired by their vision, staff welcome pupils as unique seeds. The development of the whole child is paramount. Talents are recognised and nourished and as a result all flourish as compassionate and confident learners."
- "Pupils and adults value the many invitational opportunities to come together for celebration, reflection and prayer. As a result, collective worship contributes significantly to spiritual flourishing."
- "Well planned religious education (RE) ensures a sequenced and balanced curriculum which enables pupils to flourish. It develops a good knowledge of major religions and Christianity as a global faith."

Please hold headteachers and their staff in your prayers as they seek to live out their Christian foundation with the children and adults of the school community.

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|---|---|
| <p>Church in Wales: Diocese of Bangor, Archbishop Andrew John, vacancy – assistant bishop</p> <p>Church of Ireland: Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough, Archbishop Michael Jackson</p> | <p>Anglican Church of South Africa (ACSA) Safe and Inclusive Church Commission</p> |
| Porvoo Communion | South Africa Diocesan Link |

- Sun 4** **The Second Sunday before Lent**
Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of South America
- Mon 5** **Calendar of Saints: The Martyrs of Japan, 1597**
Pray for: The Ascension, Middlesbrough
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Cameroon, The Church of the Province of West Africa
- Tues 6** **Pray for:** Holy Trinity, North Ormesby
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of El Camino Real, The Episcopal Church
- Weds 7** **Pray for:** St Paul, North Thornaby
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, The Anglican Church of Australia
- Thurs 8** **Pray for:** Archbishops' Council
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Canterbury, The Church of England
- Fri 9** **Pray for:** St Cuthbert, Ormesby
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Cape Coast, The Church of the Province of West Africa
- Sat 10** **Calendar of Saints: Scholastica, sister of Benedict, Abbess of Plombariola, c.543**
Pray for: St Mark, South Thornaby; St Peter Ad Vincula and St Mary Magdalene, South Thornaby
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Cape Town, The Anglican Church of Southern Africa



Beginning Lent

The Rt Revd Paul Ferguson, Bishop of Whitby, reflects on the beginning of our journey of Lent.

A few months ago, some of us marked the centenary of the consecration of the first Bishop of Whitby by a four-day walk from Whitby to Lastingham. On the way, we noticed different things, met different people, and had different conversations. But we were all on the same journey.

For me, Lent is rather like that. We are all on the same Bible journey from Jesus's baptism and testing in the wilderness to his arrest and death. As Jesus lived out his utter devotion to God the Father and his self-giving love for humankind, so we — if we accept the call to growing more like Christ — can use this time to hold a mirror up to our relationship with Jesus, and ask whether we really look like people who know that we belong to God.

We can do this in different ways. For example, one is to give time to reviewing each day, giving thanks for the signs of God's glory we have seen in people, places, experiences, and asking 'How has my walk with God been today?'

Another is to take the Sunday gospel readings, and give generous time to imagining ourselves in the crowd, journeying with Jesus, amazed at what he has done and said.

What about thinking afresh about our prayer life, or our giving? And although for some people doing without treats in Lent might seem quaint, actually it can be a way of challenging ourselves about whether we control our likes and preferences, or whether they control us.

So I hope that we could positively welcome Lent. Lent is a serious time, but it's not a gloomy time. Lent is a time for being realistic about our sinful failure to follow the will of God, but (like the whole of a healthy Christian faith) it's not about being loaded with crushing, useless guilt — it's a time for being open to God's forgiveness, and celebrating his love.

Is 'doing Lent' easy? Like anything that has a note of discipline about it, very likely not. But it's a valuable few weeks, and I hope you have a truly blessed Lent this year.

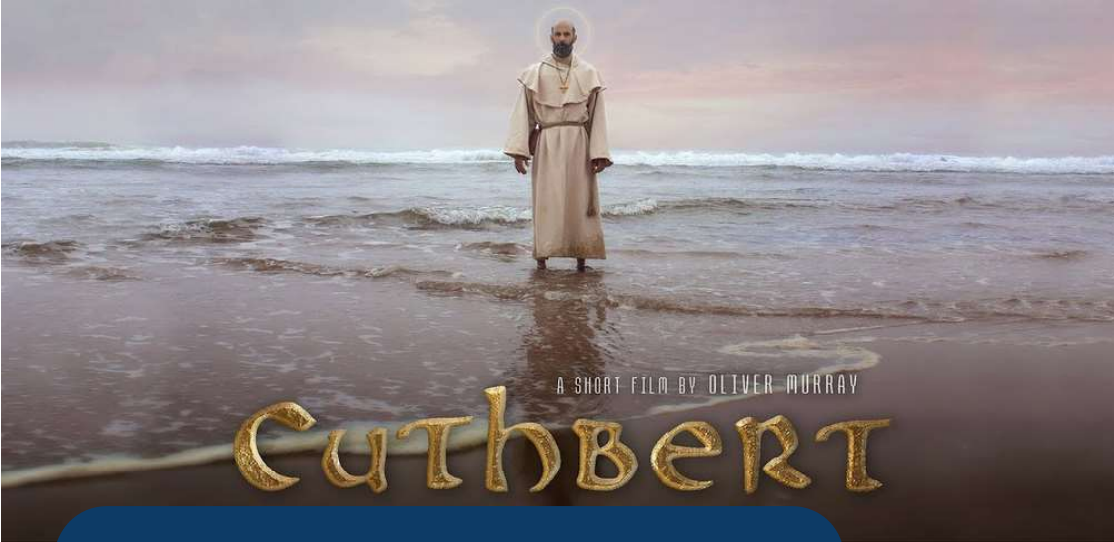
Make our hearts clean, O God; and renew a right spirit within us.

March

25th February - 2nd March

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|---|---|
| <p>Church of England: Diocese of Peterborough, Bishop Debbie Sellin, Bishop John Holbrook</p> <p>Church of Ireland: Diocese of Meath and Kildare, Bishop Pat Storey</p> | <p>Archdeaconry of Groote Schuur; Diocese of Cape Town</p> |
| Porvoo Communion | South Africa Diocesan Link |

- Sun 25** **The Second Sunday of Lent**
 Almighty God,
 by the prayer and discipline of Lent
 may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
 and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Tanzania
- Mon 26** **Pray for:** All Saints, Aughton; All Saints, Bubwith; St Helen, Skipwith
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Chicago, The Episcopal Church
- Tues 27** **Calendar of Saints: George Herbert, Priest, Poet, 1633**
Pray for: Derwent Ings Benefice: Holy Trinity, Elvington; St Mary, East Cottingham;
 St Michael, Sutton on Derwent; St Helen, Thorganby; St Helen, Wheldrake
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Chichester, The Church of England
- Weds 28** **Pray for:** St Thomas, Osbaldwick; St James, Murton
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Chotanagpur, The Church of North India (United)
- Thurs 29** **Pray for:** Rural East York benefice; St Nicholas, Dunnington; Holy Trinity, Stockton on the Forest; St Mary, Warthill; Holy Trinity, Holtby
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Christ the King, Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola
- Fri 1** **Calendar of Saints: David, Bishop of Menevia, Patron of Wales, c.601**
World Day of Prayer 2024
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Christ the King, The Anglican Church of Southern Africa
- Sat 2** **Calendar of Saints: Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary, 672**
Pray for: All Saint's Barleby; St Mary, Riccall, St Mary, Hemingborough; St Andrew, Cliffe
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Christchurch, The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia



Cuthbert – An award-winning film

North Yorkshire film-maker and ordinand Oliver Murray won a 'Panel Award' award at the Sheffield Christian Film and Media Festival in October for his independently-produced short film 'Cuthbert', about the early English saint.

Oliver spoke at the Festival about the power of cinema to tell the Christian story in fresh ways, and ultimately to re-enthrall audiences with the power of Christ's story.

"The film was a joy to make," said Oliver. "It took a great deal of work as it was made entirely by myself, but I'm happy with the finished piece and have been very moved by the attention which the film has received online without any major promotion."

"The film is missional, evangelistic (in rather a different way)," he adds.

The author of the saintsofthenorth.co.uk blog says, "I'm fascinated by the saints local to my region, a time when the Celtic Christians and those from Rome were invited amongst the pagan Anglo-Saxons to show a violent warrior people The Way."

Oliver's epic short film, shot over two days and edited over four months has been inspired by Saint Cuthbert's mystical story. It aims to depict the orthodox Christian vision afresh, touching upon the battles we all still face today.

"I'm fascinated by the early medieval era in the history of my island home," adds Oliver. "A world of miracles and of enchantment, of living alongside nature rather than athwart to it, of Gandalf-like figures and of deeply symbolic stories. I'm unapologetic about that. I don't think life is all about comfort."

Almighty God, who called your servant Cuthbert from following the flock to follow your Son and to be a shepherd of your people: in your mercy, grant that we, following his example, may bring those who are lost home to your fold; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Church of England : Diocese of Worcester, Bishop John Inge,
Bishop Martin Gorick

Church of Norway : Diocese of Hamar,
Bishop Ole Kristian Bonden

**Bishop Elect for the
Diocese of False Bay;**
The Revd Canon Stafford Moses

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

- Sun 11 Sunday next before Lent**
Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Anglican Communion: Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan
- Mon 12 Pray for:** St Martin of Tours with St Cuthbert, Middlesbrough
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba, The Church in the Province of the West Indies
- Tues 13 Pray for:** The Brambles Farm, Thorntree and Netherfields Mission Initiative
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Carlisle, The Church of England
- Weds 14 Ash Wednesday**
Holy God, our lives are laid open before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin and through the death of your Son
bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of East Carolina, The Episcopal Church
- Thurs 15 Calendar of Saints:** Sigfrid, Bishop, Apostle of Sweden, 1045
Thomas Bray, Priest, Founder of the SPCK and the SPG, 1730
Pray for: St Mary, West Acklam
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of North Carolina, The Episcopal Church
- Fri 16 Pray for:** Schools in Middlesbrough Deanery: Thornaby-on-Tees C of E
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of South Carolina, The Episcopal Church
- Sat 17 Calendar of Saints:** Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, Martyr, 1977
Pray for: Diocese of Chester; Chester Cathedral
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Upper South Carolina, The Episcopal Church



Life-saving funds raised by York St Chad's 28th Brownies

A group of Brownies at St Chad's Church, York, raised money for a defibrillator for the church after learning about the life-saving devices for their First Aid badge.

A defibrillator is a portable device that can give a casualty's heart an electric shock, when it has stopped beating. They are often located in public places such as old telephone boxes, on the walls of village halls, or outside pubs and shops, but they are increasingly found attached to church buildings.

Greer Parker, leader of York St Chad's 28th Brownies, said: "We were doing our First Aid badge, and realised our nearest defibrillator was a good 10-minute walk away. We decided to raise some money to get one here, and straight away, one of our Sixers [brownie leaders] decided to do a sponsored running-up-and-down-the-stairs!"

The group were given £1,500 from Tesco's Community Fund, where customers are given a blue token to vote for their favourite charity to receive a grant.

The Revd Simon Bray, Priest in Charge of the Bishopthorpe Road parishes, said: "It was brilliant to see the Brownies' enthusiasm for raising these important funds. It's great for the church to be a resource and a blessing to our community."

Loving God,
we pray for Brownies and other uniformed groups - for the young people, for their leaders and for all who nurture them in their lives. Stir up curiosity in them to find out more about faith in you, and give them encounters with you that transform their lives. Amen.

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| <p>Church of Ireland: United diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe, Bishop Michael Burrows</p> <p>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark: Diocese of Roskilde, Bishop Ulla Thorbjörn Hansen</p> | <p>Anglican Church of Southern Africa Anglican Students Federation</p> |
| Porvoo Communion | South Africa Diocesan Link |

- Sun 18** **The First Sunday of Lent**
Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.
The Church of England General Synod
Anglican Communion: Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan
- Mon 19** **Pray for:** Diocese of Leeds; Leeds Minster, Bradford, Ripon and Wakefield Cathedrals
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Western North Carolina, The Episcopal Church
- Tues 20** **Pray for:** Teesside University
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, The Church of Ireland
- Weds 21** **Ember day**
Almighty God, you have entrusted to your Church a share in the ministry: inspire the hearts of many to offer themselves for the ministry of your Church, that, strengthened by his power, they may work for the increase of your kingdom and set forward the eternal praise of your name; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
Pray for: South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: including James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough, Friarage Hospital, Northallerton, and primary care hospitals in East Cleveland, Redcar and Guisborough; Teesside Hospice, Middlesbrough
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Chandigarh, The Church of North India (United)
- Thurs 22** **Pray for:** Diocesan Growing Healthy Churches Adviser
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Chelmsford, The Church of England
- Fri 23** **Calendar of Saints: Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr, c.155**
Pray for: Mothers' Union
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Chester, The Church of England
- Sat 24** **Ember day**
Pray for: The Archdeacon of Cleveland
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Chhattisgarh, The Church of North India (United)