

DIOCESE OF YORK
PRAYER DIARY

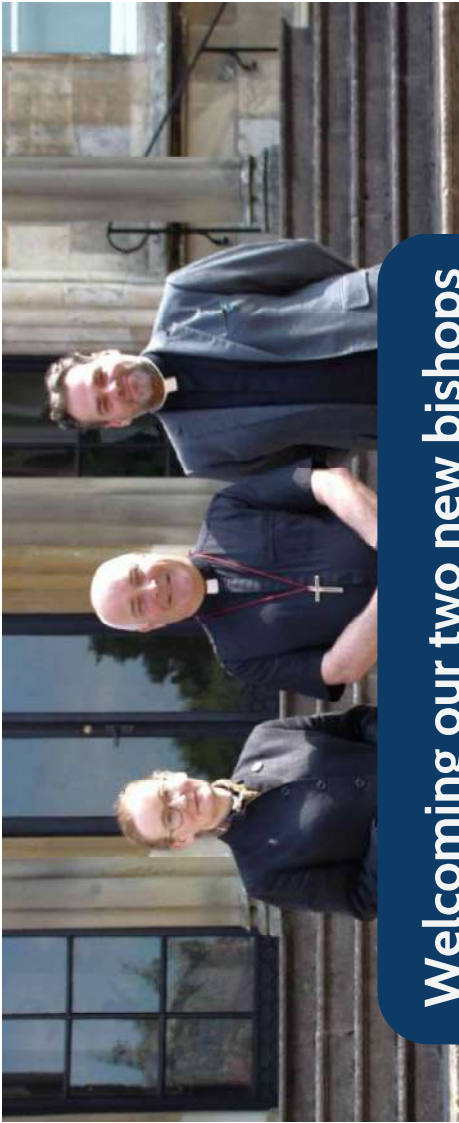
OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024



DIOCESE OF
YORK



www.dioceseofyork.org.uk



Welcoming our two new bishops



Archbishop Stephen writes to welcome our two new Suffragan Bishops.

This week, we welcome and consecrate our two new Suffragan Bishops in the Diocese of York.

Flora Winfield is to be the next Bishop of Selby: she has been Church of England's Third Estates Commissioner, and is bringing a huge amount of international, ecumenical, and pastoral experience. Barry Hill, who has been working to develop strategy for mission and ministry in the Diocese of Leicester, is to be the next Bishop of Whitby. Flora and Barry will work alongside Eleanor, Bishop of Hull, as they form a new Episcopal team that will usher in a new chapter in the way episcopal ministry is exercised across the diocese.

I'm delighted that Flora Winfield and Barry Hill have agreed to come and serve with us here in the York Diocese as Bishops of Selby and Whitby. They will be consecrated on the feast day of Saint Paulinus, the first Bishop of York in the 7th century, and I hope this will be a sign of the missionary purpose they will bring to our life in Christ. Both are hugely gifted and experienced; they are people of depth and faith.

Flora knows the Church inside out and has served the Church in a huge variety of contexts, be it as an Army Chaplain, representing the Anglican Communion at the United Nations, or helping the Church of England nationally sort out some of its most thorny pastoral challenges – and more besides!

Barry will bring huge energy to work and ministry with children, young people, families, and schools. He has also served as part of the leadership team of the international prayer movement, Thy Kingdom Come.

As Archbishop and Diocesan Bishop, I will still hold the responsibility for the oversight and ministry of the diocese, but each of the three suffragan bishops will have delegated lead responsibilities to help take forward the most important parts of our life together and advance our priorities for mission.

Flora and Barry will be consecrated bishop at 11am on 10th October, the feast day of Paulinus, the very first Bishop of York. All are welcome. There is plenty of room!

Please pray for Flora and Barry as they begin their episcopal ministry. And may God richly bless each one of us as, together, we learn to live Christ's story.

<p>Church of England: Diocese of Liverpool, Bishop John Perumbalath, Bishop Beverley Mason</p> <p>Church in Wales: Diocese of Monmouth, Bishop Cherry Vann</p> <p>Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark: Diocese of Haderslev, Bishop Marianne Christiansen</p>	<p>South Africa Diocesan Link</p>
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Porvoo Communion

- Sun 6** **The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity; also Animal Welfare Sunday**
 Faithful Lord, whose steadfast love never ceases and whose mercies never come to an end: grant us the grace to trust you and to receive the gifts of your love, new every morning, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea
- Mon 7** **Pray for:** Archbishops' Commission for Racial Justice
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Juba, Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan
- Tues 8** **Pray for:** St Stephen, Fylingdales; All Saints, Hawsker
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kabba, The Church of Nigeria
- Weds 9** **Calendar of Saints:** Denys, bishop, and companions, martyrs, c.250; Robert Grosseteste, bishop, philosopher, scientist 1253
Pray for: St Hilda, Hinderwell; St Oswald, Lythe; St Nicholas, Roxby; St Mary, Sandsend; St Peters, Staithes; Christ Church, Ugthorpe
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kadugli and Nuba Mountains, Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan
- Thurs 10** **Calendar of Saints:** Paulinus, bishop, missionary, 644; Thomas Traherne, poet, spiritual writer, 1674
Pray for: Consecration of the Bishops of Whitby and Selby at York Minster, Canon Dr Flora Winfield and Revd Barry Hill
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kaduna, The Church of Nigeria
- Fri 11** **Calendar of Saints:** Ethelburga, abbess, 675; James the Deacon, companion of Paulinus, 7th century
Pray for: St Margaret, Aislaby; St John, Sleights; St Hilda, Sneaton; All Saints, Ugglebarnby
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kafanchan, The Church of Nigeria
- Sat 12** **Calendar of Saints:** Wilfrid, bishop, missionary, 709 Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer, 1845; Edith Cavell, nurse, 1915
Pray for: St Hilda, Egton; St Thomas, Glaisdale; St Mary, Goathland; St Matthew, Grosmont; St James, Lealholm
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kagera, The Anglican Church of Tanzania

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

B:IM
2024

RECLAIMING
NARRATIVES

Marking Black History Month

The Revd Rob Suekarran, Associate Vicar at Hull Minster, shares his reflections as we began Black History Month.

Two years ago, I stepped into the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool for the Church of England's inaugural Racial Justice Unit annual gathering. This was a gathering of people, lay and ordained, from all ethnic backgrounds, engaged in the work of effecting racial justice in their Dioceses. I remember standing in awe, being a part of a truly multi-ethnic gathering, a foretaste of that time where people from every nation, tribe, people, and language will stand before the throne and the Lamb (Rev 7.9). Given the work that we are engaged with, it was fitting to meet in a place which sheds light on some of the most shameful parts of our history.

Our first item of business was a guided tour of the Slavery Museum. Here, we saw diagrams of ships, designed to maximise the number of slaves that could be carried. We found out about the routes by which slaves were carried to be traded as inhuman commodities. We were introduced to spiked chains which held slaves in their place, and the stories of both slaves and slave owners.

This was all pretty horrible. But what was really humbling was the connection between those gathered, and what was being shown to us.

Many of us had links to slavery. Some of my colleagues' ancestors were slaves, and experienced the horrific things being described to us. I descend from a country which was on a slave trade route. We were confronted by a historic injustice, but this injustice is not as far away from us as we think. These injustices continue to impact us today.

Black History Month celebrates and commemorates moments in history, achievements and contributions that black people have made, and is celebrated to eradicate discrimination and encourage racial equality. The theme of this year's campaign is 'Reclaiming Narratives', where we are encouraged to listen to the stories of Black history from the perspective of the Black community. I have personally been greatly enriched by listening to the stories of my friends and colleagues, and engaging with authors such as Anthony Reddie, Esau McCauley, Cole Arthur Riley and Akala.

How will we listen to these stories during Black History Month? As we listen to these stories, we pray for a furthering of the Kingdom of God where all racial injustice and inequality is eradicated.

www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk

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.

Praying for Children and Young People

The Church of England invites everyone to join a weekly twenty-minute online prayer gathering for doubling the number of children and young active disciples in the Church of England by 2030. The weekly Zoom prayer gathers every Tuesday for 20 mins from 13:00-13:20 GMT. It isn't primarily about numbers - it's about young lives being won and shaped by the goodness, beauty and truth of Jesus. Find out more and join the prayer:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/children-and-young-people/praying-doubling-number-children-and-young-active-disciples-church>



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 sammitooze@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: dioceseofyork.org.uk/diocesan-prayer-diary.



www.dioceseofyork.org.uk



About the Prayer Diary

How to use this Prayer Diary

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

Diocese of Truro, Vacancy in See, Bishop Hugh Nelson
 Church of England:
 Church of Norway:
 Diocese of Tönsberg, Bishop Jan Otto Myrseth
 Church of Sweden:
 Diocese of Strängnäs, Bishop Johan Dalman

Archdeaconry of Constantia,
 Diocese of Cape Town

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 13 The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
 also Homelessness Sunday and the beginning of Prisons Week

God, our light and our salvation:
 illuminate our lives; that we may see your goodness in the land of the living,
 and looking on your beauty may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Anglican Communion: The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

Mon 14 **Pray for:** St Michael and St George, Castleton; St Peter, Commondale; St Hilda, Danby; St Mary, Moorsholm; Christ Church, Westerdale
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kajiado, The Anglican Church of Kenya

Tues 15 **Calendar of Saints:** Teresa of Avila, teacher of the faith, 1582
Pray for: St Hilda, Whitby; St John, Whitby; St Mary, Whitby
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kajo Keji, Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

Weds 16 **Calendar of Saints:** Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer, bishops, martyrs, 1555
Pray for: Schools within Whitby Deanery; Danby CE School, Egton CE School, Fylingdales CE Primary School, Hawsker-cum-Stainsacre CE School, Lythe CE Primary School, Ruswarp CE Primary School, Sleights CE Primary School
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kalima, Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

Thurs 17 **Calendar of Saints:** Ignatius, bishop, martyr, c.107
Pray for: All Saints, Brantingham; All Saints, Brough; St Mary, Elloughton
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kamango, Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

Fri 18 **Calendar of Saints:** Luke the Evangelist
Pray for: St Oswald, Hotham; All Saints, North Cave; St John, North Cliffe
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kampala, The Church of the Province of Uganda

Sat 19 **Calendar of Saints:** Henry Martyn, translator, missionary, 1812
Pray for: Holy Trinity, Blacktoft; St Michael, Eastington; St Peter, Howden; St Peter, Laxton; St Stephen, Newport; St John of Beverley, Wressle
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kano, The Church of Nigeria

FOUNDATIONS IN MINISTRY

‘Deepening Discipleship’ becomes ‘Foundations in Ministry’

Jo Slack, Start of Lay Ministry Adviser, shares about the Foundations in Ministry Course.

The Deepening Discipleship project has been given a make-over since it started last September, including a new name! Over 60 participants have been engaged in the course, meeting in Northallerton, Walkington, and Wydale Hall.

The Foundations in Ministry Course (formerly the Deepening Discipleship Project) is for anyone exploring their call to ministry or simply wanting to get more involved in their local church. The course runs over 10 months with monthly online sessions and three gathered days. Working alongside a mentor in their local context, participants become part of a learning community supporting one another in developing their own ministry. With a mixture of taught sessions, preparation tasks, and group discussions, the course aims to build confidence and provide opportunities to develop an individuals' faith journey as well as supporting them in discerning what God is calling them to.

The first cohort have finished the 10-month programme, and are now looking forward to the next steps in their vocational journey, whether that is to become an Authorised Lay Minister, starting training for Licenced Lay Ministry or discerning their call to ordination.

Linda Wells from Stokesley Deanery writes: "I have thoroughly enjoyed my year working towards Authorised Lay Ministry, and I am surprised just how much I have achieved and learned. With the support of my mentor, Liz Brown, I was encouraged to connect my desire to deepen my knowledge and understanding of the Bible with my love of art. The result was the development and delivery of an Advent course and a Lent course, both of which were very well attended. All of this has increased my confidence and I am now looking forward to working with Rev. Brenda and taking the next steps in my ministry."

We are excited that the 4th cohort will be starting this September and we are hoping to start a further cohort early next year. Applications are welcomed from anyone who is involved in their local church community and have the support of their PCC and incumbent.

Please pray for all those taking part in the Foundations in Ministry Course.

If you would like to find out more, please visit the diocesan website or contact the Start of Lay Ministry Adviser, Jo Slack, to arrange a chat (jo.slack@yorkdiocese.org).

Church of England:

Diocese of Chichester, Bishop Martin Warner, Bishop Ruth Bushyager, Bishop Will Hazlewood
 Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:
 Diocese of Mikkelii, Bishop Mari Parkkinen

Diocese of Cape Town Link Officer,
 The Revd David Messer

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 29 The First Sunday of Christmas and Thomas Becket, archbishop, martyr, 1170

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.
Anglican Communion: The Episcopal Church

Mon 30 **Pray for:** Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kutgi, The Church of Nigeria

Tues 31 **Pray for:** Pioneer Ministers across the Diocese of York
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kwara, The Church of Nigeria

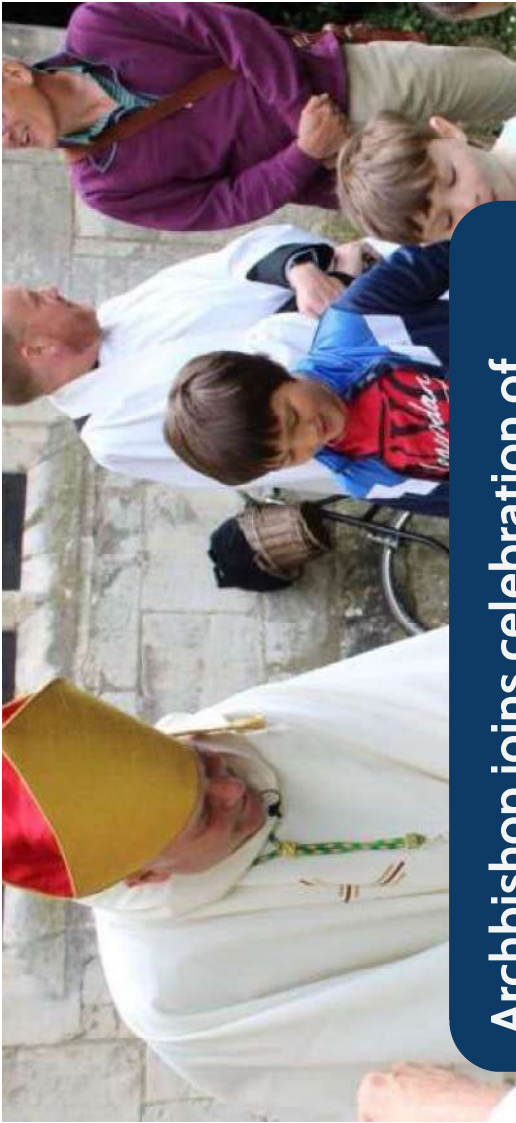
Weds 1 **Calendar of Saints: Naming and Circumcision of Jesus**
Pray for: St Margaret, Brookfield; St Peter, Hilton; St Peter and Paul, Stainton-in-Cleveland
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kwoi, The Church of Nigeria

Thurs 2 **Calendar of Saints: Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianus, bishops, teachers of the faith, 379 and 389; Seraphim, monk, spiritual guide, 1833; Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, bishop, evangelist, 1945**

Pray for: All Saints, Great Aytton; Christ Church, Great Aytton; St Oswald, Newton under Roseberry
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kyoto, The Nippon Sei Ko Kai

Fri 3 **Pray for:** St Francis of Assisi, Ingleby Barwick
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kyushi, The Nippon Sei Ko Kai

Sat 4 **Pray for:** St Hilda, Bilsdale Priory; St Andrew, Ingleby Greenhow; St Cuthbert, Kildale; St Augustine, Kirkby-in-Cleveland
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Lafia, The Church of Nigeria



Archbishop joins celebration of 600 years at Bolton Percy church

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, preached and celebrated Holy Communion at a celebratory thanksgiving service for the 600th anniversary of All Saints' Church (known as the Cathedral of Ainsty), Bolton Percy near Tadcaster.

The present building replaced an earlier church on the same site at the initiative of Thomas Parker, Rector from 1411 to 1423, and now includes a Jacobean pulpit, oak box pews, a font that originates from Norman times with a Jacobean cover, and numerous monuments set in the floor and on the walls including one commemorating the Fairfax family.

Complementing the stunning stained-glass windows, a modern window designed by Tom Denny was installed in 2000 to celebrate the Millennium.

Following the service the Archbishop buried a time capsule put together by village children.

Vicar of Askham Bryan, Bolton Percy with Colton and Copmanthorpe (the 'ABC

Churches') the Revd Geoff Mumford said, "We've been looking forward to Archbishop Stephen's first visit to the ABC Churches and we're grateful he could join us."

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said, "All Saints' is a beautiful testament to six centuries of faith and faithfulness in this village; six hundred years may be a blink in the eye of God but it's a sign of so many generations who have worshipped here, celebrated, mourned, given thanks and come to meet with God, alone or together as a community.

"It's a great joy to be part of this anniversary and to join with the village of Bolton Percy in celebrating All Saints' Church as a witness to the unchanging presence of Jesus Christ, past, present and future."

Please pray for the life and ministry in All Saints' Church, Bolton Percy, and all churches who are marking significant anniversaries this year in their stories of faith.

Church of Sweden:
Diocese of Växjö, Bishop Fredrik Modéus

Church of England:
Diocese of Oxford, Bishop Steven Croft, Bishop Olivia Graham, Bishop Gavin Collins, Bishop Alan Wilson

Diocese of Saldanha Bay Link Officer,
The Revd Andrew Gready

South Africa Diocesan Link

Porvoo Communion

Sun 20

The Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, in whose service lies perfect freedom: teach us to obey you with loving hearts and steadfast wills; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Anglican Communion: Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda

Mon 21

Pray for: St Nicholas, Newbald

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kansas, The Episcopal Church

Tues 22

Pray for: St Mary, Broomfleet; St Anne, Ellerker; All Saints, South Cave

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Western Kansas, The Episcopal Church

Weds 23

Pray for: St Helen, Welton

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kanyakumari, The Church of South India (United)

Thurs 24

Pray for: Schools within Howden Deanery; Howden CE Infant School, North Cave CE Primary School, South Cave CE School

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

Fri 25

Calendar of Saints: Crispin and Crispinian, martyrs, c.287

Pray for: Archdeacon of East Riding

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Karachi, The Church of Pakistan (United)

Sat 26

Calendar of Saints: Alfred, king, scholar, 899; Cedd, abbot, bishop, 664

Pray for: The Diocesan Registry

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

<p>Church of Norway: Diocese of Oslo, Bishop Kari Veiteberg</p> <p>Church of England: Diocese of Durham, Vacancy in See, Bishop Sarah Clark</p> <p>Scottish Episcopal Church: Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness, Bishop Mark Strange (Primus)</p>	<p>Archdeaconry of St John's Wynberg: Diocese of Cape Town</p>
<p>Porvoo Communion</p>	<p>South Africa Diocesan Link</p>

Pastoral Letter

A Pastoral Letter from Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York



As we approach the end of October, pumpkins, ghosts and ghouls clutter and decorate shop windows.

But as the world dresses up for Halloween, we in the church are invited to contemplate our humanity and our mortality in a different way. All Saints' Day (celebrated on 1 November), invites us to look beyond our own lives, and see how our story today continues the many, many stories of the saints and beloved disciples and faithful pilgrims who have gone before us.

All Saints is followed by the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls) – a reminder that all lives are precious, just as this brought comfort in the aftermath of WW1, so it brings comfort to us, too, as we ponder the horrors and the war and the injustice that is present in the world. But All Saints' and All Souls' isn't a time to focus on death in a morbid fearful way; because as followers of Jesus in speaking of death we remember the hopeful promise of everlasting life.

And we find comfort in our hope. And in our comfort we find meaning.

For as we remember the saints and indeed all those who have died in the faith of Christ, we remember how we are called to live. For we are called to be God's holy people; and to live our lives in a way that reflects God's grace and mercy; lives that speak of resurrection, of life arising from the dust of death.

Just as God called the great saints, so God calls each one of us to share in the ministry of the Good News, and we are reminded again and again that this is not our ministry alone. We follow the examples of the saints. We are called to be saints ourselves.

Stephen Cottrell
Archbishop of York

Sun 22

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord.

'O' Antiphons: O King of the nations

Anglican Communion: The Church of the Province of Uganda

Mon 23

'O' Antiphons: O Emmanuel

Pray for: Schools within Beverley Deanery; Beverley Minster CE School, Cherry Burton CE School, Little Weighton Rowley CE School, Lockington CE Primary School, Skidby CE Primary School, St Mary's CE Primary School, Tickton CE Primary School, Woodmansey CE Primary School, Bishop Burton College

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

Tues 24

Christmas Eve

Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kuching, Church of the Province of South East Asia

Weds 25

Christmas Day

Lord Jesus Christ,

your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise, as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God.

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kumasi, The Church of the Province of West Africa

Thurs 26

Calendar of Saints: Stephen, deacon, first martyr

Pray for: Crisis at Christmas

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

Fri 27

Calendar of Saints: John, Apostle and Evangelist

Pray for: Food Banks, and all charities providing direct practical support with daily living needs

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kurunegala, the Church of Ceylon (Extra Provincial)

Sat 28

Calendar of Saints: The Holy Innocents

Pray for: The Church Army

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kushtia, The Church of Bangladesh

Pastoral Letter

**A Pastoral Letter from The Rt Revd Dr Eleanor Sanderson,
Bishop of Hull**

If we knew that Jesus, in person, was coming to Wembley Arena for a one-week residency, what do we think would happen? Would the internet crash in the overwhelming demand for tickets? Would the whole country go crazy in activity and desire? Or...not. I really don't know. But it is something that I sometimes wonder.

Over this last year we have seen frenzy erupt in our country when 'big names' visit or announce that they will be present, performing, available to be seen in person and experienced. Each time it has made my heart a little sad, wondering whether there is a similar hunger for God in our communities. And if so, why this isn't always reflected in our church attendance? One of my most sobering experiences of Advent was spending Advent Sunday in a little church on the shores of Lake Galilee, in a simple Eucharist service with the regular local congregation of around a dozen. My hunger to be near Jesus, and to encounter Jesus, had finally found fulfilment: in being able to physically stand on this land where his own feet had walked. And yet I found myself in such a humble and small gathering at such a holy time of the year in a place so central to the life of our Holy one of God. It sharpened my sense of how important it is to pray and commit to sharing Christ's story in our world. Whether this Christmas we celebrate with huge crowds in packed venues, or with a small, faithful and humble community, God is with us. When we come together in worship this Christmas, we will meet Jesus. Jesus is alive and his living presence awaits us all the time. Each encounter with our Living God changes our life: we live in Christ's ongoing story and we become Christ's story.

I am sure Jesus would be amazing and dynamic, an utter joy to see at Wembley, but isn't it wonderful to know that it is more in keeping with our nativity for Jesus to be sat in the back row of a humble forgotten place, waiting to offer fresh solace, or fresh dynamic life-changing inspiration or instruction to a sincere heart who wishes to seek him – particularly those without the resources to ever buy a grandstand ticket. The remarkable Christmas story is a story still being lived and experiences all around the world every day:

"So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven: no ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls still receive him, still the dear Christ enters in."

This Christmas may the Christmas story be our story again, and may we sincerely pray and serve God together for the nativity of Christ's welcome in the hearts and homes of all our communities and streets.

Church of England:

Diocese of Carlisle, Vacancy in See, Bishop Rob Sauer-Haigh

Church of Norway:

Diocese of Stavanger, Bishop Anne Lise Ádnøy

Anglican Youth of Southern Africa
and Provincial Youth Council,
Anglican Church of South Africa
(ACSA)

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 27

The Last Sunday after Trinity and Bible Sunday

Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Anglican Communion: The Scottish Episcopal Church

Mon 28

Calendar of Saints: Simon and Jude, Apostles

Pray for: Director of Mission and Ministry; Diocesan Mission and Ministry Team

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of North Karamoja, The Church of the Province of Uganda

Tues 29

Calendar of Saints: James Hannington, bishop, martyr, 1885

Pray for: Diocesan Board of Education and Education Team

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Karimnagar, The Church of South India (United)

Weds 30

Pray for: Diocesan Safeguarding Team

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Karnataka Central, The Church of South India (United)

Thurs 31

Calendar of Saints: Martin Luther, reformer, 1546

Pray for: Diocesan Communications Team

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

Fri 1

Calendar of Saints: All Saints' Day

Pray for: Diocesan Strategy: Living Christ's Story

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Karnataka South, The Church of South India (United)

Sat 2

Calendar of Saints: Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, or All Souls' Day

Pray for: Diocesan Advisory Committee; Church Building and Property Teams
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Karongi, Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda

Church of England:
Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, Bishop Paul Williams,
Bishop Andy Emerton

Church of Norway:
Diocese of Borg, Bishop Kari Mangrud Alfsvåg

Church of England:
Archdeaconry of Namaqualand South;
Diocese of Saldanha Bay

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Safeguarding Week: Lighting the Way – A path to safer churches

Dr Mike Tyler shares about Safeguarding Week: **Lighting the Way, a path to safer churches, taking place 18th – 22nd November 2024.**

Designating one specific week a year as ‘Safeguarding Week’ is simultaneously both a help and a hindrance when it comes to our understanding of what ‘Safeguarding’ is all about, and the place that it holds in the life of the church.

On the one hand, it brings with it the benefit of inviting us all to set aside time for reflection, discussion, shared learning, and review. These are of course all critical elements of building and instilling a positive culture of safeguarding into the life of the church and into our daily as we seek to be active within the communities that we are all called to live in and to serve. Safeguarding Week 2024 has been planned to bring together a range of speakers, offering talks and sessions on a diverse range of topics, each of which focusses on one aspect of the ways in which we can all contribute to growing safer churches and safer communities. The downside of having a Safeguarding Week, of course, is the possible reinforcement of the idea that safeguarding is a ‘fit and forget’ option – something that we can compartmentalise, something that has a start and end date, something that we can rely upon others to do on our behalf.

In Luke 12.35-48, Jesus teaches his disciples about being ready to serve, using the metaphor of the wise servants who keep their lamps burning awaiting the call, ready to light the way for their master however unexpectedly he may return. It is no coincidence that this years Safeguarding Week has taken the theme of Lighting the way – a reminder that our policies and practice, together with the skills that we develop and share, all contribute to lighting the way to a safer church for all, whatever roles we are called to fulfil.

More than anything, we need to grow the understanding that Safeguarding is about being ready and equipped to serve, being ready at all times to fulfil the calling to the ministry of care for our communities, for each other and for ourselves in which we all share.

To find out more, visit:
dioceseofyork.org.uk/safeguarding-week

Sessions include A Theology of Safeguarding, Talking to someone about mental health, Understanding Neurodiversity, DBS Checks and Eligibility, Trauma-informed responses, Becoming a Dementia Friend, Risk Assessment for Parish Activities, and Parish Safeguarding Officer Forum.

- Sun 15** **The Third Sunday of Advent**
God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.
Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Tanzania
- Mon 16**
Pray for: Beverley, St Mary
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kongo, Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan
- Tues 17**
‘O’ Antiphons: O Wisdom
Pray for: Beverley, St Nicholas
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kontagora, The Church of Nigeria
- Weds 18**
‘O’ Antiphons: O Adonai
Pray for: St Michael, Cherry Burton
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kootenay, The Anglican Church of Canada
- Thurs 19**
‘O’ Antiphons: O Root of Jesse
Pray for: St Mary, Etton; St Mary, South Dalton
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Eastern Kowloon, Hong Kong Sheng Jung Hui
- Fri 20**
‘O’ Antiphons: O Key of David
Pray for: St Catherine, Leconfield; St Mary, Lockington; All Saints, Lund; St Leonard, Scarborough
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Western Kowloon, Hong Kong Sheng Jung Hui
- Sat 21**
‘O’ Antiphons: O Morning Star
Pray for: All Saints, Bishop Burton; St Peter, Rowley; St Michael, Skidby; All Hallows, Wakington
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Krishna-Godavari, The Church of South India (United)

St Aelred's Pilgrim Trail launches

George Gyte, PCC Secretary in the Parish of Upper Ryedale, writes about a new Pilgrim Trail.

Since late 2023 our intrepid path finders, Joyce Garbutt and Mal Gyte, braved autumn rainstorms and winter snow and gales, mapping and testing the best routes linking all the churches in our Benefice of Helmsley and Upper Ryedale, eventually achieving this new 41-mile-long trail which begins and ends at the ancient, majestic All Saints Church in Helmsley. It is in nine stages, each one beginning and ending at one of our churches and takes people on a scenic pilgrimage through the stunning southwestern area of the North York Moors National Park.

Our mission with this new trail, is to revitalise interest in our historic rural and hamlet churches and chapels within the Benefice of Helmsley and Upper Ryedale. We hope, however, that it will generate an interest in people of all faiths and none, who love striding and riding, and the opportunity that pilgrimage offers for spiritual experience and well-being, meeting fellow pilgrims and enjoying our beautiful countryside. Our trail will attract different groups: those who are up for a challenge, those who seek places of peace, quiet, and contemplation, and those want to hike and "stand and stare" whilst absorbing the stunning sights and sounds of our moors.

Our planning group named the trail in homage to one of the most celebrated of saints -

Aelred, Abbot of Rievaulx Abbey 1147 to 1167. One of the finest of scholars: a writer, spiritual director, poet, preacher, historian, adviser to monarchs, peacemaker and walker. He appeals to many different groups, and we wanted that as emblematic of this trail. We live at a time when pilgrimage has become an activity sought out by many, taking time out to contemplate what they want to do with their lives, or because they have lost someone dear to them, overcome a stressful experience, or for their own mental health and wellbeing.

Since completing the walkers' trail, we have also established a Saint Aelred's Pilgrim Trail for horse riders, and one for cyclists, both slightly differing from the walkers' trail, and following local bridleways.

We have set up a website and have produced a lovely Guidebook with a foreword by Archbishop Stephen and a Pilgrim Passport to be stamped at each church. For our Launch Event local artists provided exhibitions and installations in several of our churches, and even a labyrinth at Old Byland!

We see this new trail is part of our Revitalise strategy and Christian outreach mission, offering a pilgrimage to journey spiritually and physically in the footsteps of Saint Aelred.

Church of England:
 Diocese of Winchester, Bishop Philip Mountstephen,
 Bishop David Williams, Vacancy in Bishopric of Southampton
 Church of Norway:
 Diocese of Agder and Telemark, Bishop Stein Reinertsen

Archdeaconry of Overberg:
 Diocese of False Bay

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 3 The Fourth Sunday before Advent and All Saints' Day also International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church
 God of glory, touch our lips with the fire of your Spirit, that we with all creation may rejoice to sing your praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Anglican Communion: Church of the Province of South East Asia

Mon 4 **Pray for:** Generous Giving Team
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kasai, Mbuji-Mayi, Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

Tues 5 **Pray for:** Diocesan Secretary and Chief Executive; Pastoral and Synodical Team
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Katakwa, The Anglican Church of Kenya

Weds 6 **Calendar of Saints:** Leonard, hermit, 6th century; William Temple, archbishop, teacher of the faith, 1944
Pray for: Wydale Hall
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Katanga, Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

Thurs 7 **Calendar of Saints:** Willibrord, bishop 709
Pray for: Lifelong Learning Team
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Katsina, The Church of Nigeria

Fri 8 **Calendar of Saints:** Saints and Martyrs of England
Pray for: Bishop of Beverley
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kebbi, The Church of Nigeria

Sat 9 **Calendar of Saints:** Margery Kempe, mystic, c.1440
Pray for: Diocesan Board of Finance; Finance and Data Team
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kentucky, The Episcopal Church

Church of England:

Diocese of Chester, Bishop Mark Tanner, Bishop Julie Conalty,
Bishop Sam Corley

False Bay Diocese Cathedral,
All Saints, Somerset West;
Diocese of False Bay

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:

Diocese of Kuopio, Bishop Jan Jolkkonen

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 8 The Second Sunday of Advent

and Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and Saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.
Anglican Communion: Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan

Mon 9

Pray for: St Martin, Burton Agnes; St John of Beverley, Harpham; St Martin, Lowthorpe; St Nicholas, Ruston Parva

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kobe, The Nippon Sei Ko Kai

Tues 10

Pray for: Human Rights Day 2024

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Koforidua, The Church of the Province of West Africa

Weds 11

Pray for: St Mary, Cowlam; St Mary, Fimber; St Mary, Fridaythorpe; St Mary, Sledmere; St Mary, Thixendale; St Nicholas, Wetwang

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

Thurs 12

Pray for: St Andrew, Bainton; St Michael, Garton-on-the-Wolds; All Saints, Kilnwick; St Mary, Kirkburrn; St Andrew, Middleton on the Wolds; All Saints, Dalton

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kollam-Kottarakkara, The Church of South India (United)

Fri 13

Calendar of Saints: Lucy, martyr, 304; Samuel Johnson, moralist, 1784

Pray for: Schools within the Harthill Deanery; Beswick & Watton CE School, Burton Agnes CE School, Driffield CE School, Garton-on-the-Wolds CE School, Middleton-on-the-Wolds CE School, Sledmere CE School, Wetwang CE Primary School
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kondea, The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Sat 14

Calendar of Saints: John of the Cross, poet, teacher of the faith, 1591

Pray for: Beverley Minster St John and St Martin; St Leonard, Molescroft; All Saints, Routh; St Paul Tickton; St Peter Woodmansey
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kongor, Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan



Family Fun at Wydale Hall!

Angela Brymer, Diocesan Children and Youth Adviser, tells us about Family Camp which took place at The Emmaus Centre, Wydale Hall earlier this summer.

This year we held the second Family Camp after a trial event last year, started by Carolyn Edwards. Following Carolyn's departure to her new role as National Officer for Ministry with Children and Young People, it was planned and run by Rachel and Andrew Watson with families from the Mowbray, Southern Ryedale and Scarborough Deaneries attending.

With a theme of Caring for God's Creation, the grounds of Wydale are the perfect place for retreat and rest, exploration, creativity, fellowship, fun and play. We had meals together, scavenger hunts, played for hours in the park, active wake up and worship, prophetic art, hot chocolate and marshmallow s'mores around the campfire, quiet prayer and time to snooze, conversations about faith in our homes and family life, and opportunity to worship God in the outdoors. Everyone had a great time.

Some of the young people shared what they thoughts of the weekend:
"I enjoyed spending time with other younger Christians."
"I enjoyed a relaxed and unpressured agenda for a weekend and the environment is a delight."
"I enjoyed the woodland chapel and the prophetic art."

The opportunity to come together as Christian families, to find things in common, to share stories of life and faith, listen to and encourage one another and pray with each other is significant. Those who took part this year are keen to invite more families next time.

Please pray for the families who came to Family Camp that they may hold onto the glimpses of heaven from their time together and that they may grow in faith as families. Please pray for plans and preparations for another Family Camp and all those who would benefit from being a part of it.



Resources for Advent and Christmas

December can feel like chaos – lots of social events, services, Christmas presents to buy, never-ending to-do lists and the pressure to create the perfect Christmas. But in the midst of this chaos, our churches can offer an opportunity to find peace during this busy time.

The Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas 2024, *Follow the Star: Calm and Bright*, draws on the world-famous carol, *Silent Night*:

*"Silent Night! Holy Night!
All is calm, all is bright..."*

One of the reasons that this carol is so universally loved is the way it invites us into the still centre of the Christmas story, to contemplate Mary holding the new-born Jesus, the Light of the World.

The angelic messages we encounter in the biblical story of Jesus' birth typically hold together the need for calm in the present ("Do not be afraid" ... "Fear not") with the hope of a bright future ("for behold I bring you tidings of great joy").

Building on all that was learned from last year's invitation to join the Song and singing Bob Chilcott's new setting of *The First Nowell*, this campaign will also encourage children's choirs across the country this year with a highly accessible and adaptable new *Calm and Bright* song inspired by *Silent Night*.

Throughout Advent, the focus will primarily on how to find *Calm* during this busy period, with reflections offering people a chance to pause during the busy season and tips on how to prepare for a calm Christmas.

Then through Christmas, the focus will particularly on *Bright*, with a series of joyful reflections from Christmas Day to the Eve of Epiphany (5th January), including tips for a bright Christmas. There will also be reflective content throughout Advent and Christmas for those who find this time of year difficult, with some *Blue Christmas* resources.

Find out more at:

www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas/follow-star-calm-and-bright

Church of England:

Diocese of Norwich, Bishop Graham Usher,
Bishop Ian Bishop, Bishop Jane Steen

Church of Sweden:

Diocese of Luleå, Bishop Åsa Nyström

Archdeaconry of Waterfront:
Diocese of Cape Town

Povoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 10 The Third Sunday before Advent and Remembrance Sunday

God, our refuge and strength,
bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end,
that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Anglican Communion: The Church of South India (United)

Mon 11 Calendar of Saints: Martin, bishop, c.397

Pray for: Armistice Day

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of South Kerala, The Church of South India (United)

Tues 12 Pray for: Diocesan Multiply and Mustard Seed Programmes

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

Weds 13

Calendar of Saints: Charles Simeon, priest, evangelical divine, 1836

Pray for: Diocese of Liverpool; Liverpool Cathedral

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Khahlamba, The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Thurs 14

Calendar of Saints: Samuel Seabury, bishop, 1796

Pray for: Diocesan Children's and Young Person's Adviser

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

Fri 15

Pray for: Green Ambassador for the Diocese of York (Diocesan Environmental Officer)
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kibondo, The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Sat 16

Calendar of Saints: Margaret, queen, philanthropist, 1093; Edmund Rich, archbishop, 1240

Pray for: Dulverton Hall, Scarborough

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

Scottish Episcopal Church:
Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane,
Bishop Ian Paton

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:
Diocese of Porvoo, Bishop Bo-Göran Åstrand

Schools across the
Diocese of Cape Town

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

The Body of Christ is Neurodivergent

Lou Dover, Diocesan Communications Officer, shares how churches can become more accessible with neurodivergent people in mind.

What comes to mind when someone talks about 'accessibility'? You might think about ramps or hearing loops – which are great things by themselves – but not all disabilities are physical. The NHS estimates that 1 in 7 people in the UK are neurodivergent. This means that someone's brain processes information differently; examples include autism, ADHD, and dyslexia.

So, how can we make our churches or buildings accessible with neurodivergent people in mind? Here are three things to think about.

Space
Sometimes the crowds, lights, and noises in church services or groups can be overwhelming. Is there a quieter place in your building where people can go if they need some time to themselves? This could just be a church hall or a side room, it doesn't need to be anything fancy. Equally, is there space for people to move around comfortably? Not everyone can sit still for extended periods of time.

Explanations
Some people – especially autistic people – struggle with changes to routines. Explaining why things might be different, for example due

to a change in liturgical season or a sermon series, can help both neurodivergent people and those who might be new to your church. It can also help you to reflect on why you do the things you do every week.

Communication

Clear communication is key to ensuring everyone can understand what is going on. Reflect on your language – are you using unnecessarily large words in sermons? Is it obvious what will happen in a service, and what people are expected to do? Even small actions like letting people know when to sit down, stand up, or kneel can be really helpful.

This isn't an exhaustive or 'must-do' list; hopefully it can aid reflections and discussions as we work towards making our churches and buildings accessible for all.

To find out more about making your building accessible, visit: dioceseofyork.org.uk/buildings-accessibility. If you'd like to chat about accessibility in general, contact Lou at lou.dover@yorkdiocese.org.

Creating God, we thank you for the beautiful diversity of your creation. Help us understand those whose minds work differently to ours, as we shape our communities together.

Sun 1

The First Sunday of Advent

also **Charles de Foucauld, Hermit in the Sahara, 1916; and World Aids Day**
Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from darkness of sin to the light of holiness, #that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ
Anglican Communion: Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

Mon 2

Pray for: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

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

Tues 3

Calendar of Saints: Francis Xavier, missionary, Apostle of the Indies, 1552

Pray for: Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham; Southwell Cathedral
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kiteto, The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Weds 4

Calendar of Saints: John of Damascus, monk, teacher, teacher of the faith, c749; Nicholas Ferrar, deacon, founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637

Pray for: The Church of England Children's Society
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kitgum, The Church of the Province of Uganda

Thurs 5

Pray for: St Nicholas, Butterwick; All Saints, Great Driffield; St Peter, Langtoft; St Mary, Little Driffield; All Saints, Thwing

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

Fri 6

Calendar of Saints: Nicholas, bishop, c.326

Pray for: St Margaret, Beswick; St Peter, Hutton Cranswick; St Leonard, Skerne; St Mary, Watton
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kivu, Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda

Sat 7

Calendar of Saints: Ambrose, bishop, teacher of the faith, 397

Pray for: All Saints, Nafferton; St Mary, Wansford
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of North Kivu, Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo



Beginning Advent

The Revd Canon Dr Ian McIntorsh, Director of Mission and Ministry, reflects as we enter into the season of Advent.

Our grandson has some toy cars with magnets at the front and back of them. If you line the cars up in a certain way, the front car can draw the next car along by using the attractive power of its magnets.

This image of being "drawn along" is a picture for me of the season of Advent and of the hope of God which draws and attracts us into the future. As Christians, we tend to picture God as being "above us" especially when we talk about heaven or the Christmas angels singing in the sky. The Biblical story, however, is one of God not just being above us, but also being ahead of us. It is a story of God inviting us into a future where God is already present. The language of the Hebrew Bible captures this by using the same word when God says "I am" as when God says "I will be".

Hope is an Advent gift of God to the world. Hope to remind us that the God who came in Christ at Bethlehem is the same God who comes to us wherever we are this Advent. And this is the same God who continues to make the world new.

This hope is the reason why Christians join in with God to work for a more just world. Hope seen in churches providing warm spaces, in becoming eco-churches, in praying for peace in the Middle East, in acting with kindness to our neighbours.

Advent begins a new year for the Church. Might we resolve this new year to be people of hope, drawn by God into the future filled with God's promise?

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church:

Archbishop Urmas Viilma, Bishop Tiit Salumäe, Bishop Joel Luhamets

Church of England:

Diocese of Rochester, Bishop Jonathan Gibbs,
Bishop Simon Burton-Jones

Archdeaconry of Elsie's River;
Diocese of Saldanha Bay

Povoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 17

The Second Sunday before Advent and Safeguarding Sunday

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope

that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Mon 18

Calendar of Saints: Elizabeth, princess, philanthropist, 1231

Pray for: The Community of the Holy Name, Hessele

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

Tues 19

Calendar of Saints: Hilda, abbess, 680; Mechtild, béguine, mystic, 1280

Pray for: St Botolph, Allertorp; St Catherine, Barnby Moor; St Martin, Fangfoss; St Michael, Thornton; St Martin, Yapham

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

Weds 20

Calendar of Saints: Edmund, king, martyr, 870; Priscilla Lydia Sellon, a restorer of the religious life in the Church of England

Pray for: St Edith, Bishop Wilton; St Andrew, Bugthorpe; St Mary, Full Sutton; All Saints, Kirby Underdale; St Mary, Skirpenbeck

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

Thurs 21

Pray for: All Hallows, Goodmanham; All Saints, Londesborough; All Saints, Market Weighton; All Saints, Sancton; All Saints, Shiptonthorpe

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of North Kigezi, The Church of the Province of Uganda

Fri 22

Calendar of Saints: Cecilia, martyr, c.230

Pray for: St Giles, Bielby; Burnsea Chapel, St Everilda, Everingham; St Peter, Harswell; All Saints, Holme; St Edmund, Seaton Ross

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, The Church of Ireland

Sat 23

Calendar of Saints: Clement, bishop, martyr, c.100

Pray for: St Giles, Burnby; St Ethelburga, Great Givendale; St Martin, Hayton; St Mary, Huggate; St Margaret, Millington; St James, Nunburnholme; All Saints, Pocklington

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman, The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Pastoral Letter



A Pastoral Letter from The Venerable Dr. Amanda Bloor, Archdeacon of Cleveland.

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Some years ago, I spent a long weekend in Iceland. It was December, and because we were so far north, the sun never fully rose above the horizon; at the brightest point of the day, it looked like sunrise or sunset. There was a strange beauty to the half-light, especially when it wasn't snowing and the sky cleared, but after a couple of days, I found myself beginning to lose track of time. All the usual markers – dawning light waking me up in the morning and the setting sun letting me know that it was time to wind down and prepare to sleep – simply weren't there. I wondered what it would be like to live through an Icelandic winter, and how I would cope with that all-pervasive darkness.

But walking around Reykjavik, I began to notice that lights were burning everywhere I looked. There were star lanterns glowing in the windows of the houses I passed. Most shops had hurricane lamps lit outside their doorways and candles on counters next to the tills. When we checked into our hotel, there was a row of tea lights flickering on the reception desk. The darkness had become an opportunity to demonstrate the beauty and warmth of light.

As we prepare to enter Advent, we're likely to find ourselves reflecting upon darkness and light. The Advent collect urges us to 'cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light', and as we make ourselves spiritually ready to celebrate the birth of Christ, the light of the world, we might notice particular places or situations where darkness so badly needs to be cast out by that Christ-light. It's our responsibility to be bearers of that light, sharing it with others, trusting that the light shines in the darkness and the darkness will never overcome it.

*Amanda Bloor
Archdeacon of Cleveland*

Church of England:
Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Bishop Martin Seeley,
Bishop Mike Harrison

Scottish Episcopal Church:
Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney, Acting Bishop Dorsey McConnell

Anglican Women's Fellowship:
Anglican Church of South Africa (ACSA)

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 24 Christ the King and Sunday next before Advent

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory.

Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of South America

Mon 25

Calendar of Saints: *Catherine, martyr, 4th century, Isaac Watts, hymn writer, 1748*

Pray for: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kindu, Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

Tues 26

Pray for: All Saints; Catton; St Peter & St Paul, Scrayingham; St John the Baptist, Stamford Bridge

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

Weds 27

Pray for: St John the Baptist, Wilberfoss

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kinshasa, Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

Thurs 28

Pray for: Schools within South Wold Deanery;

Barmby Moor CE Primary School, Bishop Wilton CE School, Bugthorpe CE Primary School, Fangoss St Martin's CE School, Mount Pleasant CE Junior School, Pocklington CE Infant School, Warter CE Primary School, Wilberfoss CE Primary School

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

Fri 29

Calendar of Saints: *Day of Intercession and Thanksgiving for the Missionary Work of the Church*

Pray for: Foundations in Ministry Programme

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kisangani, Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

Sat 30

Calendar of Saints: *Andrew the Apostle*

Pray for: Diocesan Synod Meeting

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Kita-Kanto, The Nippon Sei Ko Kai