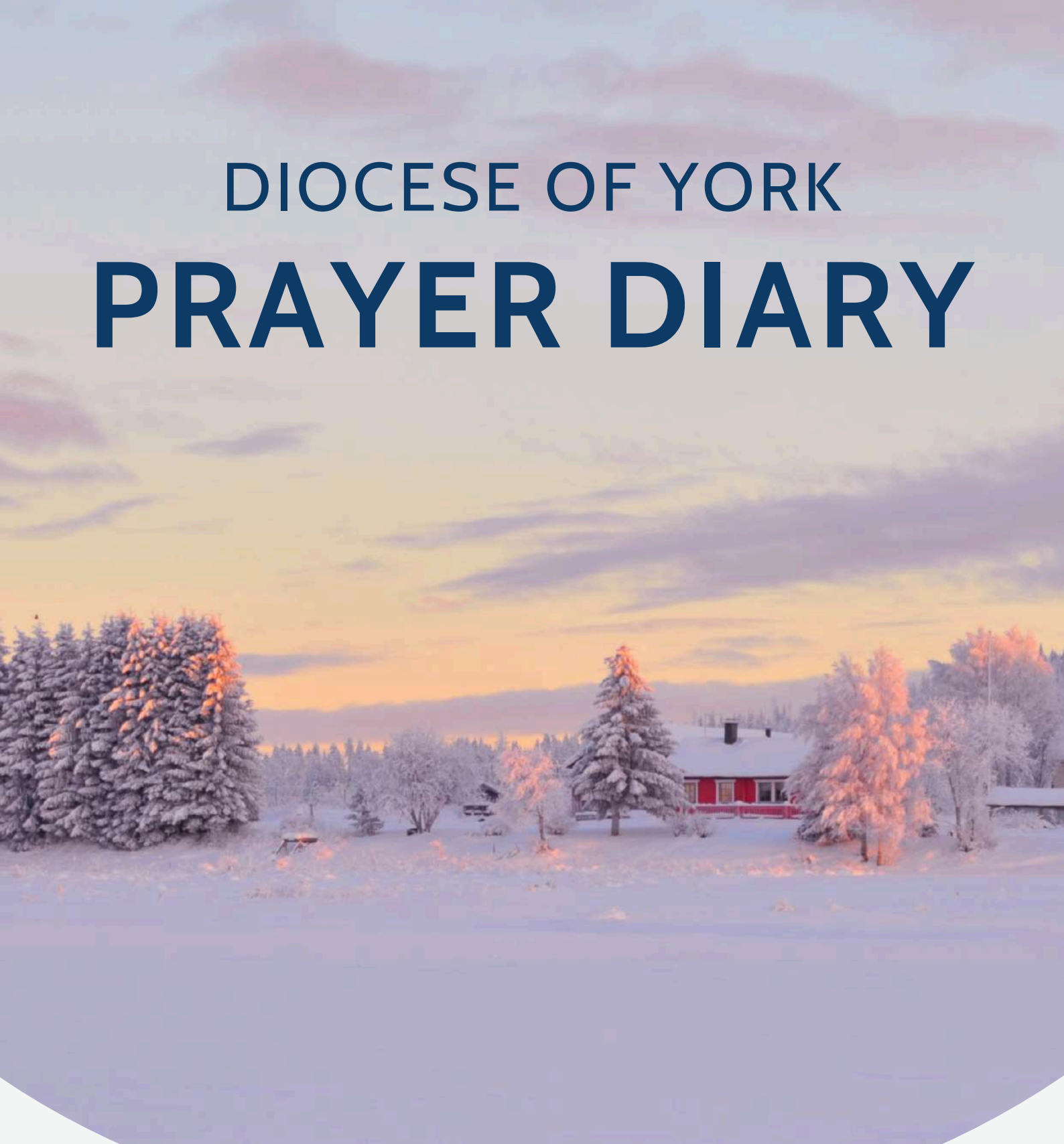


# DIOCESE OF YORK PRAYER DIARY



**JANUARY – MARCH 2025**



# A new year at Wydale Hall

**Canon Dr Helen Lawrence, Assistant Manager at Wydale Hall, speaks about Wydale's 2025 Programme as we begin the new year.**

Each year, in addition to providing a prayerful space for group and individual bookings, Wydale Hall puts on a programme of events which are open to all. We're excited about the 2025 offering, which is starting as this prayer diary is published.

As the Diocesan Retreat House, it's important to us that our programme reflects the priorities of the Diocese of York so we are always keen to tie in where we can. We consider the topics we feel are significant to explore and enter into discussions with those who are able to offer their skills, knowledge and wisdom to our programme. We offer a balance of new and established event leaders. We offer a range of content – some events offer solace whilst some offer challenge; some present the opportunity for an intellectual stretch and some are just for fun. Some of our events will appeal to those whose faith is established; some are designed for our local community. It's a beautiful jigsaw and the picture emerges as the pieces fall into place over many weeks.

Part of the purpose of our printed programme is to give a feeling for what Wydale is. The photography, the articles and the design are all part of the whole and it is our prayer that each person who browses through will find something of interest and that those who come will find enrichment and blessing as they meet with others and with Jesus while they are here.

Whether you come Wydale frequently, you've not been for some time, or you've never been before, we're looking forward to welcoming you in 2025.



Please pray for Wydale Hall as the new year begins - for its staff, its community, and all who will visit through the year.

**Church of England:**

Diocese of London, Bishop Sarah Mullally, Bishop Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy, Bishop Emma Ineson, Bishop Anderson Jeremiah, 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 Finnsett

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 5 The Second Sunday of Christmas**

God our Father, in love you sent your Son that the world may have life: lead us to seek him among the outcast and to find him in those in need, for Jesus Christ's sake.

**Anglican Communion:** The Church in Wales

**Mon 6 Calendar of Saints: Epiphany**

**Pray for:** St Mary the Virgin, Nunthorpe-in-Cleveland

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Lagos, The Church of Nigeria

**Tues 7 Pray for:** St Peter and St Paul, Stokesley; St Martin, Seamer-in-Cleveland

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Lagos Mainland, The Church of Nigeria

**Weds 8 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 Lagos West, The Church of Nigeria

**Thurs 9 Pray for:** St Mary Magdalene, Yarm; St Martin and St Hilary, Kirklevington; All Saints, Picton and Worsall

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

**Fri 10 Calendar of Saints: William Laud, Archbishop, 1645**

**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 Lainya, Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

**Sat 11 Calendar of Saints: Mary Slessor, Missionary, 1915**

**Pray for:** Retired clergy in the Diocese; Diocesan Clergy Retirement and Widower(s) Officers, Clergy with PTO

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese on the Lake, The Church of Nigeria



## Barmby Moor Launches Community Choir

The Barmby Moor Group of churches were ready to launch a three-year plan for growth in September 2023. The plan developed following four months prayerfully discerning God's mission, leading to a vision of *'grow deeper, share with others, flourish together'*. Held by the belief that God was encouraging the churches to listen deeply to the needs of the community, when the Revd Mark Poole received a text message from someone in one of the villages saying that a few school mums thought it might be a good idea to form a choir to help with mental health and well-being, he realised that God was knocking at the door. A month or two later, the Barmby Community Choir was formed.

The choir is an informal group comprising people from all walks of life. Some members attend church, and many do not. There is no requirement to be able to read music or sing in tune, and there is no expectation that people must attend every week. The desire is to provide some time for the community to come together through the joy of singing and see what happens. The choir has taken off and now has around 20 singers, from those in their 30s to the over-70s. As well as singing a mix of sacred and secular music, friendships have grown and deepened amidst plenty of tea, chat and laughter which sometimes extends to the pub when rehearsals in church are finished!

Members speak enthusiastically of the impact the choir has had on their lives. One member said, "I have somewhere safe to go that has helped me massively to become 'me' again. We all have a laugh and for me the choir is a massive help for when I have bad days, or even months, and now I would be lost without it."

Another choir member added, "I have made new friends and deepened my friendship with others - the choir feels like family! I love that we are all unique and have come together to sing and so much more - laughter, learning, 'feel good,' stress relief and fun!"

Since the choir began in the Spring of 2024 it has performed at St Catherine's Church Barmby Moor, including at the 'Big Sing', the carol service and the Live Nativity at the Boot & Slipper pub, introduced by Revd Mark in 2023, which attracts over 200 people. The choir has more performances to look forward to in 2025.

The Revd Mark Poole said, "We hope and pray that the Barmby Moor Community Choir feeds the souls of all its members with God's eternal promise that he came that we may indeed 'have life in all its fulness.'"

**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, Bishop-designate Sophie Jelley,  
vacancy for Bishop of Warwick

**HOPE Africa:**

HOPE Africa is a Non-Profit Company created as the Anglican Church's response to poverty and inequality in society. The work of HOPE Africa 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 12 The First Sunday of Epiphany and Baptism of Christ**

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognise him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Anglican Communion:** The Church of the Province of West Africa

**Mon 13 Calendar of Saints: Hilary, Bishop, teacher of the faith, 367, Kentigern (Mungo), missionary bishop, 603, George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends, (Quakers) 1691**

**Pray for:** Diocesan Office; Diocesan Secretary and Chief Executive's Office including provision of HR services

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Lango, The Church of the Province of Uganda

**Tues 14 Pray for:** Sector Chaplaincy including in sport, the arts, leisure, transport, industry, armed services and the police

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of West Lango, The Church of the Province of Uganda

**Weds 15 Pray for:** York Diocesan Leadership Team (YDLT)

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Langtang, The Church of Nigeria

**Thurs 16 Pray for:** HM Prison Kirklevington Grange

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Lebombo, Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola

**Fri 17 Calendar of Saints: Anthony of Egypt, hermit, abbot, 356, Charles Gore, bishop, founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932**

**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 Leeds, The Church of England

**Sat 18 Calendar of Saints: Amy Carmichael, spiritual writer, 1951**

**Pray for:** Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25 January

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Leicester, The Church of England



# Pastoral Letter



## *A Pastoral Letter from The Ven Andy Broom, Archdeacon of the East Riding*

Every month has a variety of days marking different events and themes. In January alone you could, if you chose to, celebrate ‘Chocolate-Covered Cherry Day’ on the 3rd, ‘Houseplant Appreciation Day’ on the 10th, ‘Penguin Day’ on the 20th, and ‘Answer Your Cat’s Questions Day’ on the 22nd. The choice is almost overwhelming!

January includes Martin Luther King Day on the 15th. He stands out as one of the greatest champions of justice and equality. His life was dedicated to fighting for equal rights for all, irrespective of their skin colour or ethnic background. He also addressed other issues of inequality in society, especially discrimination against the poorest.

The Christian Faith shaped King’s life and ministry. He said of Christ, “Jesus eloquently affirmed from the cross a higher law. He knew that the old eye-for-eye philosophy would leave everyone blind. He did not seek to overcome evil with evil. He overcame evil with good. Although crucified by hate, he responded with aggressive love.”

You still find people who prefer an image of Christ that could be summed up by the words ‘Gentle Jesus, meek and mild’. Whilst these are aspects of Christ’s character, a quick read of the gospels show that those two characteristics are only a small part of his full nature. Often, he exhibited that ‘aggressive love’ which Martin Luther King speaks of – whilst its radicalness upset some, it also transformed the lives of many.

Issues of inequality remain, and God’s Church is called upon to both highlight, and to fight, injustice. Martin Luther King followed his Saviour in rejecting an indifferent or passive response to injustice – loving aggressively doesn’t allow for it. As Martin Luther King said “Our lives begin to end, the day we become silent about things that matter.”

*Andy Broom*  
*Archdeacon of the East Riding*

**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

**Diocese of Cape Town;** for its diocesan office and staff:

Prayers for the East Riding Archdeaconry as we look to deepen our links with Cape Town/Table Bay. We pray for Bishop Joshua Louw and his team and all those who work in the Diocese. May our mutual working develop and knowledge of each other's understanding of the Gospel, that we continue to grow and nurture the work with our young people in both places.

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

**Sun 19 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:** The Church in the Province of the West Indies

**Mon 20 Calendar of Saints: Richard Rolle, spiritual writer, 1349**

**Pray for:** Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust  
*also inauguration of the President of the USA*  
**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Lesotho, The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

**Tues 21 Calendar of Saints: Agnes, child martyr, 304**

**Pray for:** Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell  
**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Lexington, The Episcopal Church

**Weds 22 Calendar of Saints: Vincent of Saragossa, deacon, martyr, 304**

**Pray for:** Diocese of Durham; Durham Cathedral  
**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Liberia, The Church of the Province of West Africa

**Thurs 23 Pray for: Christ Church, Eston; St George, Normanby**

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Lichfield, The Church of England

**Fri 24 Calendar of Saints: Frances de Sales, Bishop, teacher of the faith, 1622**

**Pray for:** St Hilda of Whitby, Grangetown  
**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Lincoln, The Church of England

**Sat 25 Calendar of Saints: Conversion of Paul**

**Pray for:** St Barnabas, Linthorpe  
**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Litoral Ecuador, The Episcopal Church



## New Worshipping Community where deaf and hearing people gather

**'Harmony' is a new worshipping community based at St Mary's Church, Boston Spa which brings together deaf, hearing impaired and hearing people to eat and worship together. Harmony runs on the second Sunday of each month starting at 12.30pm with a light lunch (usually soup then cake) and lasts around two hours.**

The congregation uses a blend of communication styles, combining BSL, lip reading, speech, and live transcription software. While this makes things move quite slowly, it means that everyone is able to contribute to the Bible discussion and prayer sharing times. One unexpected outcome of the way the worship is led is that a couple of people who have dementia attend and find this slower pace of things suits them, even though they are more at home with traditional liturgy.

The group started meeting in July following discussions between the Revd Nick Morgan, vicar of St Mary's, and Christine Shaw who is also part of the team at 'Connections' café church, part of St Mary's Multiply project. Christine is deaf, and her vision was for deaf and hearing people to eat and worship together. For Christine, it was crucial that, while the worshipping community would grow out of deaf people's culture, this was not to be a group solely for deaf people – hearing people were very much part of the vision.

Nick says, "To paraphrase Galatians 3.28, in Christ there is no deaf or hearing, for all of us are one in Christ Jesus!

"As a hearing person I think of the word 'harmony' as all about sound, so it isn't a word I would ever have come up with for a group co-led by deaf people, but for Christine it was the obvious word: people who have different cultures of communication working in harmony to create a way of worshipping led by deaf culture, but inclusive of those who hear.

"I, and others who are not deaf, are the ones for whom reasonable adjustments are being made at Harmony so we can participate. It is an eye opener as one of the worship leaders to be the one who is on the steep learning curve – and I do get heckled a lot in BSL!"

Please pray for the ministry of Harmony, and the benefice of churches in Bramham.

To find out more about Harmony, please contact:  
[bramhambenefice@outlook.com](mailto:bramhambenefice@outlook.com)



**Church of England:**

Diocese of Birmingham, Bishop Michael Volland,  
vacancy for Bishop of Aston

**Church of Ireland:**

Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Bishop Paul  
Colton Evangelical Lutheran

**Church in Denmark:**

Diocese of Elsinore, Bishop Peter Birch

**Anglicans Ablaze:**

We are 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. Every two years, we gather together for an international conference; and each year, various regional Anglicans Ablaze conferences are held throughout the province.

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

**Sun 26** **The Third Sunday of Epiphany; also the tenth anniversary of the consecration of women as Bishops in the Church of England**

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

**Anglican Communion:** The Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria

**Mon 27** **Pray for:** International Holocaust Memorial Day

Eternal God, we come before you, conscious of the fragility of freedom, to remember the victims of the Holocaust. We lament the loss of the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust, the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution, and victims of all genocides. Remembering the past, help us today to use what freedom we have to stand up for those whose freedom is denied. We pray for a day when all shall be free to live in peace. Amen.

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Liverpool, The Church of England

**Tues 28** **Calendar of Saints:** Thomas Aquinas, priest, philosopher, teacher of the faith, 1274

**Pray for:** St Cuthbert Marton with Easterside

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

**Weds 29** **Pray for:** All Saints, Middlesbrough

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Llandaff, The Church in Wales

**Thurs 30** **Calendar of Saints:** Charles, King and martyr, 1649

**Pray for:** St Columba with St Paul, Middlesbrough; St John the Evangelist, Middlesbrough

**Anglican Communion:** Missionary Area of Lodwar, The Anglican Church of Kenya

**Fri 31** **Calendar of Saints:** John Bosco, priest, founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888

**Pray for:** St Oswald and St Chad, Middlesbrough

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Lokoja, The Church of Nigeria

**Sat 1** **Calendar of Saints:** Brigid, Abbess, c. 525

**Pray for:** St John the Evangelist, South Bank and St Thomas the Apostle, Brambles Farm

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



## Warm spaces and wellbeing cafe thrives at St Mary's, Thirsk

**'Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.'**

*Hebrews 13.2*

**The Revd Mary Rolls. Area Dean of Mowbray and and 20-40s Minister at Thirsk, speaks about the ministry of the wellbeing cafe at St Mary's, Thirsk.**

At St Mary's, we partner with the Renew Wellbeing charity to offer a weekly wellbeing cafe for those in need of a space in which 'it's ok not to be ok'. The cafe has morphed in the year we've been running it into a warm space soup lunch, always with prayer.

It's attracted new people, two of whom have come to faith, plus an extra one as a result of the testimony of one of the first two - Praise God!

The cafe has also been a great way to offer hospitality on a Tuesday afternoon to tourists. We are just up the road from the James Herriot museum in Thirsk, and welcome 7,500 visitors from all over to church through our Welcome Ministry over the spring and summer months.

Many have stopped for a cuppa and chat or joined us for soup lunch, appreciating the fellowship. The cafe has not in any way been a fundraising initiative, but it's surprising and humbling how generously people respond to something offered for free!

Please pray for the forms of hospitality to different people groups you offer in your church, and the churches in your deanery.

Pray for new ways you might offer hospitality, ways you can reach out to different parts of your community.

To find out more, please visit [www.renewwellbeing.org.uk](http://www.renewwellbeing.org.uk)

**Church in Wales:**

Diocese of Bangor, Archbishop Andrew John, Bishop David Morris

**Church of Ireland:**

Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough, Archbishop Michael Jackson

**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 2 The Presentation of Christ in the Temple – Candlemas**

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the nations and glory of Israel:

make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, your God, and our God.

**Anglican Communion:** The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

**Mon 3 Calendar of Saints: Anskar, archbishop, missionary, 865**

**Pray for:** The Ascension, Middlesbrough

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of London, The Church of England

**Tues 4 Calendar of Saints: Gilbert, founder of the Gilbertine Order, 1189**

**Pray for:** Holy Trinity, North Ormesby

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Long Island, The Episcopal Church

**Weds 5 Pray for: St Paul, North Thornaby**

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Los Angeles, The Episcopal Church

**Thurs 6 Calendar of Saints: Martyrs of Japan, 1597**

**Pray for:** Archbishop's Council

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Louisiana, The Episcopal Church

**Fri 7 Pray for: St Cuthbert, Ormesby**

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Western Louisiana, The Episcopal Church

**Sat 8 Pray for: St Mark, South Thornaby; St Peter Ad Vincula and St Mary Magdalene, South Thornaby**

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Luapula, The Church of the Province of Central Africa



# Reflection on Racial Justice Sunday

**Gerald Fox, Diocesan Racial Justice Education Adviser, reflects as the Church marks Racial Justice Sunday.**

2025 will mark thirty years since the first Racial Justice Sunday and so provides us with a chance to reflect on how well we have done in combatting racism over the last thirty years.

In 2021 the Archbishops' Antiracism Task Force published *From Lament to Action*. Its sobering conclusion was that the Church of England was institutionally racist and had failed to take any significant action despite twenty-five previous reports. Since then, however, there have been some encouraging signs. In our own diocese we have seen the setting up of the Racial Justice Advocates Group, the creation of a Racial Justice Charter, the appointment of a Racial Justice Education Advisor and Archbishop Stephen welcomed UKME/GMH clergy from across the Northern Province to Bishophorpe Palace. This year it would be good to see more parishes marking Racial Justice Sunday by utilising some of the excellent resources that are available.

Racial Justice Sunday is about remembering, reflecting and responding. We should remember why racial justice is important. The bible doesn't have a lot to say about racial

justice because racism as an idea is a product of the transatlantic slave trade and colonialism. However, the bible does have a lot to say about the importance of justice. 'But let justice roll down like waters' (Amos 5.24). We should love and pursue justice because God does. Justice is part of who God is. As a church we should reflect God's nature and work to make our churches places where everybody is not only welcomed but affirmed.

Racial Justice Sunday also calls us to reflect on human diversity and thank God for it. The amazing variety of God's creation and everything in it, including people, demonstrate His love of diversity. Each and everyone of us is fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139.14) and we are all made in God's image (Gen 1.26). We are gifted by God with unique talents, skills and perspectives and it is only by ensuring everybody can put those gifts to use in God's service that our church can thrive and grow.

Finally, Racial Justice Sunday calls us to respond by working to end racism through prayer and action. What action we take will look differently for each of us depending on our contexts, but we can all pray for the work of racial justice in our diocese and make a conscious effort to educate ourselves about issues of race and racism in our church and the wider world.

**Church of England:**

Diocese of Worcester, Acting Bishop of Worcester,  
Bishop Martin Gorrick during this vacancy

**Church of Norway:**

Diocese of Hamar, Bishop Ole Kristian Bonden

Anglican Church of South Africa  
(ACSA) Safe and Inclusive Church  
Commission

**Porvoo Communion**

**South Africa Diocesan Link**

**Sun 9 The Fourth Sunday before Lent and Racial Justice Sunday**

Lord of the hosts of heaven, our salvation and our strength, without you we are lost: guard us from all that harms or hurts and raise us when we fall; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Anglican Communion:** The Anglican Church of Australia

**Mon 10 Calendar of Saints: Scholastica, Abbess, c 543**

**Pray for:** General Synod, meeting from today until Friday 14th

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

**Tues 11 Pray for: St Martin of Tours with St Cuthbert, Middlesbrough**

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

**Weds 12 Pray for: The Brambles Farm, Thorntree and Netherfields Mission Initiative**

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Lusaka, The Church of the Province of Central Africa

**Thurs 13 Pray for: St Mary, West Acklam**

**Anglican Communion:** The Lusitanian Church (Extra Provincial)

**Fri 14 Calendar of Saints: Cyril and Methodius, missionaries, 869 and 885**

**Pray for:** Schools in Middlesbrough Deanery: Thornaby-on-Tees C of E

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Luwero, The Church of the Province of Uganda

**Sat 15 Calendar of Saints: Sigfrid, bishop, 1045; Thomas Bray, priest, founder of SPCK and SPG, 1730**

**Pray for:** Diocese of Chester; Chester Cathedral

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Northern Luzon, The Episcopal Church in the Philippines



## Pastoral Letter



### *A Pastoral Letter from The Rt Revd Barry Hill, Bishop of Whitby*

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

How and why we grow younger and more diverse as a Church is at the heart of Living Christ's Story (and part of the diocesan-wide brief which, with colleagues, I hold). 'Younger and more diverse' obviously covers a very wide range of different forms of diversity, with it being important to honour the stories, opportunities and challenges unique to each, but they are deliberately held together because a common question is at their heart: how do nurture a Church in which we don't put ourselves, our stories, experiences and perspectives at the centre and define everything and everyone else by what we have known?

The scriptures show us that diversity (for example, in Acts 17 racial diversity) is not first a problem to solve, but God's gift to the Church so that each person can see the difference Jesus Christ makes in their context and story. We seek to grow younger, not so we feel better about ourselves or have a slightly more secure future for the Church, but because the Gospel of Jesus Christ helps address so many of the challenges Gen Z and Gen Alpha are carrying, and because as a Church we need the experiences and wisdom of young people.

This week, as in our prayer diary we especially pray for Teesside University, please pray for a major piece of work starting next month to discern how best we serve, support and reach both Higher and Further Education students (post-18) across our diocese. There are more details on the diocesan website of how those already involved in mission and ministry with post-18 students can be involved. We can all join together in prayer as university and college students face issues as never before, that the grace and blessings of God would move contagiously through the education communities of North Yorkshire.

With love in Christ,

*+Barry Hill  
Bishop of Whitby*

**Church of Ireland:**

United Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe,  
Bishop Michael Burrows

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:**  
Diocese of Roskilde, Bishop Ulla Thorbjörn Hansen

**The Diocese of False Bay;**  
Bishop Stafford Moses

**Porvoo Communion**

**South Africa Diocesan Link**

**Sun 16 The Third Sunday before Lent**

Eternal God, whose Son went among the crowds and brought healing with his touch: help us to show his love, in your Church as we gather together, and by our lives as they are transformed into the image of Christ our Lord.

**Anglican Communion:** The Church of Bangladesh

**Mon 17 Calendar of Saints: Janini Luwum, archbishop, martyr, 1977**

**Pray for:** Diocese of Leeds; Bradford, Ripon and Wakefield Cathedrals

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Lweru, The Anglican Church of Tanzania

**Tues 18 Pray for:** Teesside University; Students, staff and chaplaincy services

**Anglican Communion:** Missionary Area of Macau, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

**Weds 19 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 Machakos, The Anglican Church of Kenya

**Thurs 20 Pray for:** Work across the diocese to provide children, youth and families work

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Maciene, Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola

**Fri 21 Pray for:** Archdeacon of Cleveland, Amanda Bloor

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

**Sat 22 Pray for:** All Saints, Aughton; All Saints, Bubwith; St Helen, Skipwith

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Madi and West Nile, The Church of the Province of Uganda



## Celebrating Rural Ministry in North Holderness

**The Revd David Messer, Area Dean of North Holderness, celebrates rural ministry across the deanery.**

It is an honour to serve in North Holderness Deanery. We are a deanery made up of five benefices, with a mixture of rural and coastal villages and one seaside town. We stretch from Beeford to Leven, to Skirlaugh and on to Aldborough and Hornsea.

There are twenty-two villages, each with its place of worship, with a mix of traditional and contemporary worship. Locally, the churches provide places of worship and pastoral support, study and development, and places of warmth and celebration. Like so many deaneries, we have been focussed on developing our Deanery Plan, aligned with the diocesan vision of Living Christ's Story.

In amongst of all of this work we sometimes just need to stop and celebrate our lives together, worship and give thanks for our relationship with Christ and God's beautiful creation that surrounds us.

In August each year, we gather in the former Benedictine Priory of Nunkeeling, hidden away in rural Holderness - a nunnery founded in 1152 by Agnes de Arches, in honour of St. Mary Magdalene. Over the years in this abandoned priory church, the benefice has held an open air gathering of worship.

In 2022, we used the priory as a place we could gather as a deanery. We encouraged one another to stop for an afternoon, take some space from being busy, and relax into a place where the walls are soaked in the prayers of those who have gone before us. It was such a fruitful time to be together, to see the sky and feel a wonderful summer breeze come through unglazed windows.

We bless you, master of the heavens,  
for the wonderful order and beauty  
which enfolds this world;  
bless the ministry in all those places  
of rural life,  
that we may be partakers in your  
continuing recreation of this earth,  
and, with joy, join in creation's endless  
song of praise.



**Church of England:**

Diocese of Peterborough,  
Bishop Debbie Sellin, Bishop John Holbrook

**Church of Ireland:**

Diocese of Meath and Kildare, Bishop Pat Storey

Anglican Church of Southern  
Africa (ACSA) Anglican  
Students Federation

**Porvoo Communion**

**South Africa Diocesan Link**

**Sun 23 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:** Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

**Mon 24 Pray for:** Derwent Ings Benefice: Holy Trinity, Elvington; St Mary, East Cottingwith;

St Michael, Sutton on Derwent; St Helen, Thorganby; St Helen, Wheldrake

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

**Tues 25 Pray for:** St Thomas, Osbaldwick; St James, Murton

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Madurai-Ramnad, The Church of South India (United)

**Weds 26 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 Magwi, Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

**Thurs 27 Calendar of Saints: George Herbert, priest, poet, 1633**

**Pray for:** All Saint's Barleby; St Mary, Riccall, St Mary, Hemingborough; St Andrew, Cliffe

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Mahajanga, The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean

**Fri 28 Pray for:** St Helen, Escrick; St Matthew, Naburn; St Helen, Stillingfleet

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Maiduguri, The Church of Nigeria

**Sat 1 Calendar of Saints: David, bishop, patron of Wales, c 601**

**Pray for:** Schools in Derwent Deanery: Dunnington CE; Elvington CE; Escrick CE; Naburn CE; Sutton-upon-Derwent CE; Warthill CE; Wheldrake with Thorganby CE; Queen Margaret's School, Escrick

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Maine, The Episcopal Church



## Beginning our journey of Lent

*The Revd Dr Jenny Wright reflects as we begin our journey of Lent.*

As winter slowly turns to spring and the first snowdrops peak through the frozen ground as a sign of life and hope, so in the church calendar we begin to prepare ourselves for the great feast of Easter by entering the season of Lent, taking time to allow God to inhabit our thoughts and our hearts. It is a time to reflect on our spiritual journey, perhaps to pray more regularly, read scripture more deeply, or simply allow ourselves time to be with God. It is, as Janet Morley says, 'the heart's time'.

It is a time when we should feel uncomfortable – squirming in our seats as we seek to know better who it is God has called us to be; how it is God is calling us to live Christ's story at work, at home, at church.

Perhaps a different way of thinking about this, is taking time to turn away from the ordinary routines and habits of our lives to allow us to see the world anew. Sometimes that for which we search is right there in front of us. So it is not so much the act of 'giving up chocolate', than the act of searching for a different pattern, a different way of being.

For it is then that we encounter the hope that we have in Christ, sure in the knowledge that we are God's chosen elect, that we are redeemed by Christ's blood, that the darkness will not overcome the light.

*The Revd Dr Jenny Wright  
Chaplain to the Archbishop of York*

**Church of England:**

Diocese of Canterbury, Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin

**Church of Ireland:**

Diocese of Down and Dromore, Bishop David McClay

**Archdeaconry of Groot Schuur;**

Diocese of Cape Town

**Porvoo Communion**

**South Africa Diocesan Link**

**Sun 2 The Sunday next before Lent and Church Action on Poverty Sunday**

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:** The Anglican Church of Burundi

**Mon 3 Pray for:** Area and Lay Deans

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

**Tues 4 Pray for:** Lay Officers; including Deanery Financial Advisers, church wardens, treasurers, PCC secretaries, vergers, safeguarding officers and electoral roll officers

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Makamba, The Anglican Church of Burundi

**Weds 5 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 Makueni, The Anglican Church of Kenya

**Thurs 6 Pray for:** Diocese of Manchester; Manchester Cathedral

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Makurdi, The Church of Nigeria

**Fri 7 Calendar of Saints:** Perpetua, Felicity and companions, martyrs, 203

**Pray for:** World Day of Prayer

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

**Sat 8 Calendar of Saints:** Edward King, bishop, 1910; Felix, bishop, 647; Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, priest, poet, 1929

**Pray for:** International Women's Day

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Malaita, The Anglican Church of Melanesia

# The Revd Dianne Gamble

Bishops' Adviser for Women's Ministry



## New Bishops' Adviser for Women's Ministry

**The Revd Dianne Gamble has been appointed as the Bishops' Adviser for Women's Ministry. Following a career in the Railway Industry, Dianne was ordained as a priest in 2016, and currently serves as the Priest in Charge of five benefices in Mowbray Deanery.**

**Reflecting on her appointment, Dianne writes:**

Thirty years ago, I was present in York Minster when the first women in this diocese were ordained priest. It was a moment of support to, and celebration for, the ministry of one of those being priested who was a friend. Over time I have got to know some of those other women who became priests that day. Receiving their priestly ministry has been a great blessing to me. Eight years ago, it was my turn to accept God's call and become a priest in the Church of God.

Thirty years has seen more women responding to God's call on them to serve in the church, in both ordained and lay roles. More and more people have experienced the ministry of women and been blessed by that ministry. But it isn't always easy. Women in ministry bring a variety of experiences into that ministry. There will be times and situations when these experiences will be very different to what men

bring into ministry. We live in a society where unconscious bias sets expectation of what women can be and what they can achieve. For the church to support women in ministry, it needs to hear about the challenges that they face so that appropriate support can be offered. As the new Bishops Advisor for Women's Ministry, my role will be to listen to my colleagues and share with our bishops the reality of ministry as women and also to support that ministry and encourage and equip women in our churches to have the courage to respond to God's call on them.

Commenting on Dianne's appointment, Stephen Cottrell, the Archbishop of York, said, "I'm thrilled that Dianne will be joining us as our Adviser for Women's Ministry. Dianne brings a wealth of experience and wisdom to this much-needed role, and I look forward to working with her in our shared commitment for women to flourish in the ministries God has called them to."

Please pray for Dianne as she settles into her new role, and for all women who serve in all forms of ministry across this diocese.

**Church of England:**

Diocese of Chelmsford, Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani,  
Bishop Roger Morris, Bishop Lynne Cullens, Bishop Adam Atkinson

Provincial Synod of South Africa

**Church of Sweden:**

Diocese of Karlstad, Bishop Sören Dalevi

**Porvoo Communion**

**South Africa Diocesan Link**

**Sun 9 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.

**Anglican Communion:** The Anglican Church of Canada

**Mon 10 Pray for:** The North Scarborough Group (1): St John the Baptist, Staintondale; St Hilda, Ravenscar; St Mary, Cloughton

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

**Tues 11 Pray for:** Holy Nativity, Eastfield; Westway Open Arms, Eastfield

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Lake Malawi, The Church of the Province of Central Africa

**Weds 12 Ember Day**

**Pray for:** St John the Evangelist, Filey; St Oswald, Filey; St Thomas, Gristhorpe

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Northern Malawi, The Church of the Province of Central Africa

**Thurs 13 Pray for:** The North Scarborough Group (2): St Laurence, Scalby; St Peter, Hackness; St Margaret, Harwood Dale

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Southern Malawi, The Church of the Province of Central Africa

**Fri 14 Ember Day**

**Pray for:** Hertford benefice: St John, Folkton; St Nicholas, Ganton; St Peter, Willerby, All Saints, Hunmanby; All Saints, Muston

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of West Malaysia, Church of the Province of South East Asia

**Sat 15 Ember Day**

**Pray for:** Diocesan Synod Meeting and The North Scarborough Group (3); St Mark, Newby; St Luke, Scarborough

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

## Pastoral Letter



### *A Pastoral Letter from The Ven Sam Rushton, Archdeacon of York*

In these days of Lent, our walk through ‘the wilderness’ continues. Wilderness is a recurrent theme in the Bible. Whether as a community – like the people of Israel fleeing their Egyptian slavery – or as individuals, many find themselves in those places where all that they had relied upon or taken for granted is stripped away and they are left to fend for themselves in an empty place. And in those places of deep alone-ness, they find God, the God who went before them into that dark and empty space and inhabited it with himself.

We are not alone. This is the great triumphant shout of our Christian hope. We are not alone. Our God goes with us. The Son of Man came to share our sorrows, our joys, our burdens. The Holy Spirit binds us together in love. We are not alone and we do not need to be afraid.

The period of wilderness feels like a little death, a stripping away of physical reality so that all that is left is just me and what I carry with me. It is a place where I come face-to-face with who I am when all the ‘stuff’ that I thought was important no longer is. When I look back to the world I left behind, I realise most of it was easier to let go of than I thought and I mourn the wasted time, the people I could have spent more time with. And I hope and I pray for the time yet to come, when the journey through the wilderness is over.

But if the gospels teach us anything, it is that the resurrection body is not the same as the body that died. New life is not the same as the old life with a second wind. My prayer for the Church is that it will allow itself to be changed by its prolonged journey through the wilderness this year.

*Sam Rushton  
Archdeacon of York*

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia:**

Archbishop Jānis Vanags, Bishop Einārs Alpe, Bishop Hanss Martins Jenson,  
Bishop Rinalds Grants, Bishop Uldis Gailitis

**Church of England:**

Diocese of Lichfield, Bishop Michael Ipgrave, Bishop Timothy Wambunya,  
Bishop Sarah Bullock, Bishop Matthew Parker, Bishop Paul Thomas

**Archdeaconry of Paarl;**

Diocese of Saldanha Bay

**Church in Wales:**

Diocese of St David's, Bishop Dorrien Davies

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

**Sun 16 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 Church of the Province of Central Africa

**Mon 17 Calendar of Saints: Patrick, bishop, missionary, patron of Ireland, c. 460**

**Pray for:** St Columba, Scarborough; St James with Holy Trinity, Scarborough

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Malek Rup, Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

**Tues 18 Calendar of Saints: Cyril, bishop, 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 Malindi, The Anglican Church of Kenya

**Weds 19 Calendar of Saints: Joseph of Nazareth**

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

**Anglican Communion:** Te Pihopatanga o Te Manawa o Te Wheke, The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

**Thurs 20 Calendar of Saints: Cuthbert, bishop, missionary, 687**

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

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Manchester, The Church of England

**Fri 21 Calendar of Saints: Thomas Cranmer, archbishop, 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 Mandalay, The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma)

**Sat 22 Pray for: World Water Day**

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Manicaland, The Church of the Province of Central Africa



## Eco Community Space Grows at Ingleby Barwick

**Maia Forrester (pictured above), eco champion at St Francis' Church Ingleby Barwick, shares how the church have developed their carpark into an eco community space.**

As one of the eco champions at St. Francis of Assisi, I became aware of a potential space in our carpark we could develop. I was looking at our ground boundary and realised there was about 5 metres deep of scrub bush, just totally dead and invading the area.

We formed a weekly gardening group to clear out this area and expand our idea of a dead hedge, prayer walk and labyrinth, children's outdoor activities, including brass rubbings, as well as recycled pallet seating area that could be used for prayer, contemplation and time in God's creation. It has taken us a full year from the first session to a full 24-metre section of dead hedge. Using the dead bushes and bushes from traffic island re-ordering has meant there is zero waste from our works and no trees had to be removed, which was amazing!

As I write today, we now have people using the area, most popular with our younger ones to explore. It has enabled us to achieve the Silver Eco Church Award and to implement habitats for a wide range of species. It is dotted with bird, bat, hedgehog and bee boxes, as well as minibeast hotels and newly nesting birds.

Part of our overall mission is to make it an area that both public and congregation can enjoy, in harmony with our biodiverse ecosystem. We are getting a portacabin installed, hopefully next year, so it can be used for planting, praying, and enjoying the outdoors, providing space for schools and social action projects.

Please pray for the eco ministry at St Francis', for the creativity and innovation in the care of God's creation, and for all communities working towards becoming a registered Eco Church.



**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, Acting Bishop of Ely, Bishop Dagmar Winter during this vacancy

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba;

Archbishop of Cape Town

and Primate of Southern Africa

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

**Sun 23 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:** Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America

**Mon 24** **Calendar of Saints:** Walter Hilton, mystic, 1396, Paul Couturier, priest, ecumenist, 1953, Oscar Romero, archbishop, martyr, 1980

**Pray for:** Diocesan Vocations Team

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

**Tues 25** **Calendar of Saints:** Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Pray for:** Diocese of Sodor and Man; Cathedral Isle of Man

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Mara, The Anglican Church of Tanzania

**Weds 26** **Calendar of Saints:** Harriet Monsell, founder of the Community of St John the Baptist, 1883

**Pray for:** Bishopthorpe Palace

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Maralal, The Anglican Church of Kenya

**Thurs 27** **Pray for:** University of York; students, staff and chaplaincy services

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

**Fri 28** **Pray for:** St Margaret, Brotton Parva

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

**Sat 29** **Pray for:** Christ Church, Coatham; All Saints, Dormanstown

**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Marsabit, The Anglican Church of Kenya



## Connect Service Celebrates Children with Additional Needs

**The Revd Mairi Taylor-Gibson, Distinctive Deacon at Holy Redeemer Acomb, speaks about the ministry of Connect, a service reaching children with additional needs.**

Connect was started last December as a response to our awareness of a large number of local families of children with additional needs. We were also blessed to have connections to Christians whose work or family life gave them experience which enabled us to cater for children with physical and neurodiverse needs; offering a supportive and welcoming way to hear about God.

We meet on the fourth Sunday of each month at 3pm in Holy Redeemer, Boroughbridge Road in Acomb, York. The session starts with activities such as play-doh, crafts, biscuit decorating and toys with refreshments available. After about half an hour, we invite everyone to join together (although if they don't want to there is no pressure, children are free to continue their activities) and sing our welcome song, followed by listening to a Bible story. We then have a time of group games such as using a parachute or finding things in church followed by a closing song and bubble prayers.

All our songs and stories are accompanied with Makaton signing and our activities have Makaton labels on them to aid communication. We are also blessed with a large open, flat church building which allows wheelchair and walker access. Our children have really enjoyed the freedom to explore church and the story in their own way and parents have valued the opportunity to relax and meet other parents in a similar position.

Connect is designed as a service for people to use either as an opportunity to explore faith with their families or to complement their existing church life in their own settings. Please pray for our families that they will find the love and peace of God in their time at Connect and for the team as we seek to plan and invite more people to hear God's message and see his love for their whole families.

If you, or anyone you know, would benefit from joining, please do get in touch with Mairi through:  
RevDeaconMairi@gmail.com

**Church of Ireland:**

Diocese of Armagh, Archbishop John McDowell

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:**

Diocese of Funen, Bishop Made Davidsen

**Church of England:**

Diocese of Sodor and Man, Bishop Tricia Hillas

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

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

- Sun 30** **The Fourth Sunday of Lent and 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:** Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo
- Mon 31** **Calendar of Saints: John Donne, priest, poet, 1631**  
**Pray for:** All Saints, Easington; St Hilda, Liverton Mine; St Michael, Liverton  
**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Maryland, The Episcopal Church
- Tues 1** **Calendar of Saints: Frederick Denison Maurice, priest, teacher of the faith, 1872**  
**Pray for:** St Nicholas, Guisborough  
**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Masasi, The Anglican Church of Tanzania
- Weds 2** **Pray for:** Kirkleatham Parish: St Cuthbert, Kirkleatham Village; St Hilda Redcar  
**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Maseno East, The Anglican Church of Kenya
- Thurs 3** **Pray for:** St Leonard, Loftus-in-Cleveland; St Helen, Carlin How and Skinningrove  
**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Maseno North, The Anglican Church of Kenya
- Fri 4** **Pray for:** St Mark, Marske-in-Cleveland  
**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Maseno South, The Anglican Church of Kenya
- Sat 5** **Pray for:** St Thomas, New Marske; Emmanuel, Saltburn-by-the-Sea  
**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Maseno West, The Anglican Church of Kenya



## 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 [porvoocommunion.org](http://porvoocommunion.org)

## 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](http://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 [sammi.tooze@yorkdiocese.org](mailto:sammi.tooze@yorkdiocese.org).

## Useful Links

Archbishop of York: [archbishopofyork.org](http://archbishopofyork.org)

The Church of England: [churchofengland.org](http://churchofengland.org)

## Contact

If you have any questions or comments, please email us on: [prayerdiary@yorkdiocese.org](mailto: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](http://dioceseofyork.org.uk/diocesan-prayer-diary).

