

DIOCESE OF YORK
PRAYER DIARY

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2025



www.dioceseofyork.org.uk



Celebration of Lay Ministries

A Celebration of Lay Ministries Service took place on Saturday 27th September in York Minster, to recognise and affirm the ministries of lay people in the Diocese of York.

This Eucharist service celebrated the breadth of lay ministries across the diocese. It included the authorisation of Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs), the admission and licensing of Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers) and Licensed Lay Workers, as well as a recognition of those who are taking on other forms of Lay Ministry. There was also be an acknowledgement of the LLMs who have given long service.

As the body of Christ in the Diocese of York, its people and church communities will give thanks for the rich gifts of those who serve in a variety of lay ministries, all of which are a vital part of the ministry of the whole people of God as participants in God's mission to the world.

David Boddy, who is being licensed as an LLM, said, "The formation journey towards becoming an LLM has been an enormously enriching one for my faith and discipleship, deepening my understanding of scripture and theology. I'm looking forward to continuing on this journey, sharing the gospel and taking part in God's mission for the church in my home parish and at work."

Emma Peers, also licensed as an LLM, says, "The past year has been one of learning, but also of listening – tuning in to the still small voice and the nudges, discerning where God is calling me to serve. I am eager to serve God in new and creative ways, supporting existing initiatives, building on past experiences, and exploring new ministry opportunities among a new and evolving team. I am learning to trust God's timing and seasons, and I look forward to this next chapter, continuing to listen closely for his guidance in directing my steps for the growth of his kingdom. My prayer remains: that God will take me, shape me, and make me his own in ministry."

Lynn Comer, Warden of Lay Ministry for the Diocese of York, said, "I'm so glad we're able to celebrate the huge variety of lay ministry we have in our diocese, and it's wonderful to see so many people saying "yes" to God's calling on their lives. Our lay ministers play an essential role in the life of the Church, so it's great to have this opportunity to recognise their skills, gifts, and commitment to serving their communities."

Please pray for all lay people serving in all forms of ministry across churches and communities in the Diocese of York, and the wider Church of England.

Church of England:
Diocese of Liverpool, Interim Bishop Ruth Worsley

Church in Wales:
Diocese of Monmouth, Bishop Cherry Vann - also Archbishop of Wales

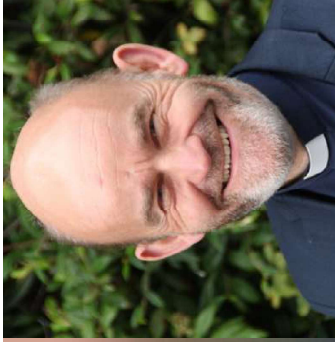
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:
Diocese of Haderslev, Bishop Marianne Christiansen

Archdeaconry of Table View,
Diocese of Saldanha Bay

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

- Sun 5** **The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity and Animal Welfare Sunday**
 Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us:
 open our eyes to your wonders, that we may serve you with reverence
 and know your peace at our lives' end, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Tanzania
- Mon 6** **Calendar of Saints:** William Tyndale, translator, martyr, 1536
Pray for: St Michael, Bampton, St Oswald, Flamborough, St Peter, Reighton, St John
 Sewerby, St Leonard, Speeton
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Panama – Iglesia Anglicana de la Region
 Central de America
- Tues 7** **Pray for:** Schools within the Bridlington Deanery; Flamborough CE School; Kilham
 CE School
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Pankshin – The Church of Nigeria
- Weds 8** **Pray for:** The Crown Nominations Commission responsible for discerning and
 nominating the next Archbishop of Canterbury
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Panrieng – Province of the Episcopal Church of
 South Sudan
- Thurs 9** **Calendar of Saints:** Denys, bishop and companions, martyrs, c 250; Robert Grosseteste,
 bishop, philosopher, scientist, 1253
Pray for: York School of Ministry
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Panyana – Province of the Episcopal Church of
 South Sudan
- Fri 10** **Calendar of Saints:** Paulinus, bishop, missionary, 644; Thomas Traherne, poet, spiritual
 writer, 1674
Pray for: Diocese of Liverpool; Liverpool Cathedral
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Paraguay – The Anglican Church of South America
- Sat 11** **Calendar of Saints:** Ethelburga, abbess, 675; James the Deacon, companion of Paulinus,
 7th Century
Pray for: Diocese of Blackburn; Blackburn Cathedral
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Paraná – Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil



Thanks and Farewell to Ian McIntosh

The Revd Canon Dr Ian McIntosh is stepping down from his role as Director of Mission and Ministry in October 2025.

Ian joined the diocese in the summer of 2021, having previously served as Head of Formation for the National Ministry Team. Ordained in 1990 alongside his wife, Nicola, Ian has held positions in the Dioceses of London, Leicester, St Alban's, Ely, St Edmundsbury & Ipswich, and York.

In the Diocese of York, Ian has drawn together the work of the Lifelong Learning Team, the Vocations Team, and the Multiply and Mustard Seed Teams. He has developed new work with Growing Healthy Churches, Discipleship, Start of Lay and Ordained Ministries and more recently with Racial Justice. He has also built a wider Mission and Ministry network to include the work of Wydale, Social Justice and our work with Children and Young People. In the last year, he has also been acting Director of Ordinands.

Ian said, "After a season of growing a Mission and Ministry team who work well both together and with our bishops, we are about to enter a new season which will need different impetus and leadership. I am also at that stage of life where I would like to step into paid work that is part-

time in order to have space for family and for hobbies. I am definitely not retiring and will be actively looking for work which might be a bit more hands-on in terms of the nurturing and formation of individuals and communities. Whilst I have nothing formally to move onto yet, I would value your prayers for all that is to come. I am very grateful to many people across our diocese with whom it has been a privilege to share this work over the last 4 years."

Peter Warry, Diocesan Secretary, said, "Ian's quiet and unassuming approach to his work has had a huge impact not just on the Mission & Ministry Team but on all that we have been doing as part of Living Christ's Story. His commitment to supporting all those in lay and ordained ministries has been unwavering, as has his advocacy for Mustard Seed, Multiply and Revitalise. We will miss the richness of his input to the leadership team of the diocese as well as his deep pastoral concern for all those with whom he has worked – although sad to see him go, we wish him well and will always be grateful for his time amongst us."

Please pray for Ian and his wife Nicola as they move into this new season, giving thanks for all that they have given to the life and ministry of the diocese.

Anglican Communion

The Anglican Communion is a family of 42 autonomous and interdependent 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 sammi.tooze@yorkdiocese.org.

Useful Links

Archbishop of York: archbishopofyork.org
The Church of England: churchofengland.org

Contact

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

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



Follow us 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 porvooecumenion.org

October

12th – 18th October

Church of England:

Diocese of Truro, Bishop David Williams, Bishop Hugh Nelson (currently suffragan Bishop of St Germans and Bishop designate of Worcester)

Church of Norway:

Diocese of Tønsberg, Bishop Jan Otto Myrseth

Church of Sweden:

Diocese of Strängnäs, Bishop Johan Dalman

Archdeaconry of Mountain Bay,
Diocese of False Bay

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 12

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity and Prisons Week begins

Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life: deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Anglican Communion: The Church of the Province of Uganda

Mon 13

Calendar of Saints: *Edward the Confessor, king, 1066*

Pray for: Diocese of Sheffield: Sheffield Cathedral

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Patheingyi – The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma)

Tues 14

Pray for: St Stephens, Fylingdales, All Saints; Hawsker

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Patna – The Church of North India (United)

Weds 15

Calendar of Saints: *Teresa of Avila, teacher of the faith, 1582*

Pray for: St Hilda, Hinderwell, St Oswald, Lythe, St Nicholas, Roxby, St Mary, Sandstead, St Peter's Church, Staithes, Christ Church, Ugthorpe

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Pelotas – Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

Thurs 16

Calendar of Saints: *Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer, bishops, martyrs, 1555*

Pray for: St Margaret, Aislaby, St Johns, Sleights, St Hilda, Sneaton, All Saints, Ugglebarnby

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Pennsylvania – The Episcopal Church

Fri 17

Calendar of Saints: *Ignatius, bishop, martyr, c 107*

Pray for: St Hilda, Egton, St Thomas, Glaisdale, St Mary, Goathland, St Matthew, Grosmont, St James, Lealholm

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania – The Episcopal Church

Sat 18

Calendar of Saints: *Luke the Evangelist*

Pray for: St Michael and St George, Castleton, St Peter, Comondale, St Hilda, Danby, St Mary, Moorsholm, Christ Church, Westerdale

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania – The Episcopal Church



Pastoral Letter

A pastoral letter from Archbishop Stephen.

Should I stay or should I go?

The church remembers some of the great northern Saints at this time of the year. Last week it was Paulinus on 10 October and Wilfrid on 12 October, two of my greatest and most well-known predecessors. Between them, on 11 October is another great northern Saint, though one that doesn't tend to be remembered so well: James the Deacon.

When Paulinus fled south following the death of King Edwin in battle, James stayed in the north. He carried on preaching and teaching. Bede described him as a true churchman and a holy person. He remained in the north into old age, teaching and baptising. When peace was restored and the number of believers started to increase again James taught people to sing as they prayed and instructed them in the music of the church.

Following Christ is always challenging. Most of us are tempted at one point or another to throw in the towel. I am deeply inspired by the example of James the Deacon, the servant, who stayed and persevered. And as Saint Augustine observed, I also know that when we sing we pray twice.

There is quite a bit of evidence around at the moment suggesting that the numbers of those who believe in Christ, and certainly those who are exploring the way of Christ, is on the increase. We might just be starting to see a quiet revival in our nation. Goodness knows, we need it. So please persevere. As we live Christ's story together, may every parish, and all our chaplaincies and worshipping communities, be a house of prayer and a school for disciples. And sing when you pray.

*Stephen Cottrell
Archbishop of York*

December

28th December - 3rd January

Church of England:

Diocese of Chichester: Bishop Martin Warner,
Bishop Ruth Bushyager, Bishop Will Hazlewood

Archdeaconry of St John's Wynberg,
Diocese of Cape Town

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:
Diocese of Mikkeli: Bishop Mari Parkkinen

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 28

The First Sunday of Christmas and The Holy Innocents

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 Anglican Church of Canada

Mon 29

Calendar of Saints: *Thomas Becket, archbishop, martyr, 1170*

Pray for: The Church Army

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Sebei – The Church of the Province of Uganda

Tues 30

Pray for: Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Sekondi – The Church of the Province of West Africa

Weds 31

Calendar of Saints: *John Wycliff, reformer, 1384*

Pray for: Pioneer Ministers

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Seoul – The Anglican Church of Korea

Thurs 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 Seychelles – The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean

Fri 2

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

Pray for: All Saints, Great Ayton; Christ Church, Great Ayton; St Oswald, Newton under Roseberry

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Sheffield – The Church of England

Sat 3

Pray for: St Francis of Assisi, Ingleby Barwick

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Shinyanga – The Anglican Church of Tanzania



The South Holderness Deanery Village Churches Charity Shop

A Churchwarden in the rural deanery of South Holderness recently had a conversation with someone who had managed charity shops for nationwide charities, discovering that an ordinary high street charity shop might be expected to raise around £1,000 a week. Realistically, in a rural setting, just a small percentage of this would be welcome to support our ongoing mission and ministry.

After thinking about this for some time, and, mulling over the idea that largely empty church buildings might be put to good use for such a purpose, the idea developed towards offering goods for sale placed in a village venue with a regular footfall, together with an honesty box, this might benefit both the venue and the local churches, also reducing the need for supervision by volunteers.

Maureen, a member of Hollym Church who was helping out at a FareShare food project at Easington, put the idea to her daughter-in-law who owns a garden centre in Hollym. In the garden centre was a small space used only at Christmas, that may be made available. We made sure that the running of the shop did not inconvenience the staff of the garden centre, and that everything was thought through in

advance to ensure that the two enterprises operated independently. And so the conditions were established.

Notices were displayed with contact details for members from local churches involved together with an explanation detailing the purpose of the shop and the benefit it would provide by supporting local church ministry. The the giving of unwanted items is a Christian service which benefits both the giver and the recipient, raising funds for the ministry at the same time.

Keeping the shop tidy, labelling and displaying goods has sometimes been a challenge so those who manage the charity shop are always looking out for helpers. It is encouraging to know that so many in the local communities are generously donating items for sale and people are only too glad to know that their unwanted items are going to a good cause. A secure honesty box was made by a local artisan.

The shop has been running for over a year and has raised over £1,000 for the mission and ministry of the deanery.

October

19th - 25th October

Church of Sweden:

Diocese of Växjö, Bishop Fredrik Modéus

Church of England:

Diocese of Oxford, Bishop Steven Croft,
Bishop Mary Gregory, Bishop Gavin Collins, Bishop David Bull

Archdeaconry of Constantia,
Diocese of Cape Town

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 19

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

God, our judge and saviour, teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love, that we may live each day

with confidence in the salvation which is given through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Anglican Communion: The Episcopal Church

Mon 20

Pray for: St Hilda, Whitby, St John, Whitby, St Mary, Whitby

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Perth – The Anglican Church of Australia

Tues 21

Pray for: Schools within the 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 Peru – The Anglican Church of South America

Weds 22

Pray for: All Saints, Brantingham, All Saints, Brough, St Mary, Elloughton
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Peshawar – The Church of Pakistan (United)

Thurs 23

Pray for: St Oswald, Hotham. All Saints, North Cave, St John, Northcliffe
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Peterborough – The Church of England

Fri 24

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 Central Philippines – The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

Sat 25

Calendar of Saints: [Crispin](#) and [Crispian](#), [martyrs](#), c 287

Pray for: St Nicholas, Newbald
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of North Central Philippines – The Episcopal Church in the Philippines



Ordination Joy in the Diocese of York

This summer, the Diocese of York celebrated the ordinations of four deacons, and fourteen priests at services in churches across the diocese.

Deacons are called to work in the community and assist in church; each candidate will serve as Assistant Curate in a parish within the Diocese of York, the Church of England between the Rivers Humber and Tees and between the A1 and the Yorkshire coast.

Those ordained priest each will be able to carry out the full range of sacraments amongst the community and congregation, including presiding at Holy Communion.

The four people ordained as Deacons are Sam and Hannah, a married couple who met whilst training at theological college; Peter, a Marketing and Communications professional who felt a call to ordination whilst planning music for a church service; and Karen, a Consultant Cardiovascular Radiologist who will continue in her role at Leeds Teaching Hospital during her curacy.

The fourteen people ordained priest are Anne-Marie Breeewood, Janet Burrows, Helen Jones, Debbie Long, Hannah Moore, Lizzie Nelson, Darius Traves, Rosie Evans, Claire Stubbs, Pauline Giddings, Gill Boag-Munroe, Liz Brown, Emma Cain, and Dave Barf.

Archbishop Stephen said about the people ordained Deacon, "It has been wonderful to meet with Peter, Karen, Hannah and Sam and hear from them about their journey to ordination. I look forward to seeing how God will use the gifts and experiences they bring as their ministry develops. Their individual stories reflect how God calls people from all different walks of life.

"I'll be praying for them as they take this next step on their journey, that the love of God may be made visible through them."

You can read more about our newly ordained priests on the diocesan website at: dioceseofyork.org.uk/priests25

You can also view online photo albums from the ordination services over the weekend of 28th – 29th June and on 6th July at: dioceseofyork.org.uk/2025-ordinations-photos

Please pray for our newly ordained Deacons and Priests, and the communities they serve, as they begin their ministries.

December

21st - 27th December

Church of Norway:

Diocese of Oslo, Bishop Kari Veiteberg

Church of England:

Diocese of Durham, vacancy, Acting Bishop Sarah Clark

Scottish Episcopal Church:

Diocese of Moray, Ross and Catthness, Bishop Mark Strange (Primus)

Archdeaconry of
Namaqualand South,
Diocese of Saldanha Bay

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 21

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 Oriens

Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Burundi

Mon 22

O Rex Gentium

Pray for: All Saints, Bishop Burton, St Peter, Rowley, St Michael, Skidby, All Hallows, Walkington
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Santiago (Chile) – Iglesia Anglicana de Chile

Tues 23

O Emmanuel

Pray for: Schools within the 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 Santiago (Philippines) – The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

Weds 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 São Paulo – Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

Thurs 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 Sapele – The Church of Nigeria

Fri 26

Calendar of Saints: Stephen, deacon, first martyr

Pray for: Crisis at Christmas

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Saskatchewan – The Anglican Church of Canada

Sat 27

Calendar of Saints: John, Apostle and Evangelist

Pray for: Food Banks; and all forms of direct support with daily living needs

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Saskatoon – The Anglican Church of Canada 25



Pastoral Letter

A Pastoral Letter from The Rt Rev'd Dr Flora Winfield, Bishop of Selby

The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us.

Advent is a time of expectation. The anticipation builds each day, as we await Christ's coming among us, as one of us and in the most vulnerable form of human life: a new born baby. And for Mary, of course, the weeks we mark as Advent were literally a time of expectation, they were the ninth month of her pregnancy. For her these weeks were not only a time of preparation for the birth of her first child, but also a season when she and Joseph had to travel, to be registered by the authorities in Joseph's home town.

After the journey, there was no rest and place to stay in the crowded little town. The familiar Nativity scenes often show a rather picturesque, slightly tumble down stable, with animals watching on: hardly the ideal place for childbirth. But here, in the midst of all the messy, turbulent reality of the world, God came among us, came and found us in the darkness and the pain and muddle of our human experience, and came as the light which shines in the darkness, the light which no darkness can overcome.

Our Christmas scenes often also show something rather lovely: wide eyed children, and gifts, hospitality and welcome, decorations and cheerfulness. Wonderful things. And this can give the impression that the particular happiness of Christmas is somehow only available to people who are already happy. But the reality of the stable scene stands as a powerful reminder that the Incarnation is everywhere and for everyone. In every circumstance, however painful or broken, Christ comes, with love and healing, justice and forgiveness, reconciliation and liberation. And Christ illuminates the darkness of our hearts and of our world, he sets us free from sin, to know true joy as he is born in our hearts, however broken. Come, let us adore him.

+Flora Winfield

October

26th October – 1st November

Church of England:

Diocese of Carlisle: Bishop Rob Saner-Haigh

Diocese of Saldanha Bay Link Officer,

The Revd Andrew Gready

Church of Norway:

Diocese of Stavanger: Bishop Anne Lise Ådnøy

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 26

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 Church in Wales

Mon 27

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

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Northern Philippines – The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

Tues 28

Calendar of Saints: Simon and Jude, Apostles

Pray for: St Helen, Welton

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Southern Philippines – The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

Weds 29

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

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

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Phulbani – The Church of North India (United)

Thurs 30

Pray for: Archdeacon of the East Riding

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Pittsburgh – The Episcopal Church

Fri 31

Calendar of Saints: Martin Luther, reformer, 1546

Pray for: The Diocesan Registry

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Polynesia – The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

Sat 1

Calendar of Saints: All Saints Day

Pray for: All Saints; and International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Popondota – The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea



York Churches in Bumper Funding Joy

Eighteen places of worship are celebrating this month after receiving over £95,000 from the Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust (YHCT).

The YHCT is a charity whose objective is to help churches in Yorkshire by offering grants for conservation, repairs and maintenance. Through fundraising, donations and membership, the Trust distributes funding to churches and chapels from all Christian denominations of any age in need of financial assistance to preserve and repair their church. Funding has been awarded to places of worship from Sheffield to Hawes and Bridlington to Birkby and includes Anglican, Catholic, United Reformed Churches as well as a City Church, part of the Christ Central group of churches.

One of the churches receiving funding is St Martin's in Bulmer. The YHCT were delighted to award £9,000 towards repairs to the 14th century tower. This Grade I listed church has great historical significance, housing the head of a Saxon wheel-cross and an effigy of John de Bulmer, who died in the 1270s. His descendant Sir John Bulmer, and his wife, were involved in the Pilgrimage of Grace. The church receives many visitors, and the members of the community are setting up a local history group to create an in-church 'Info point/touchscreen'.

£6,000 was also awarded to All Saints and St James at Nunnington, nestled in the stunning Howardian Hills. Originally dating back to 12th century, this church still houses the altar from 1672 and its original oak door, with mediaeval fleur-de-lys hinges.

The YHCT were delighted to help towards the cost of replacing 4 frosted glass nave windows with clear-glazed square panels with red-coloured borders, to replicate the originals housed in the church before restoration works took place in 1883. The replacement windows will hugely enhance the quality and clarity of light into what is a much loved church, actively looked after by the wider community and open every day to visitors.

The Revd Canon Sue Binks, Vicar at All Saints and St James said: "All Saints and St James Parish Church is cherished by the whole community and holds great meaning for the village; the Church walls are soaked in centuries of prayer and it is such a beautiful place of serenity and beauty to mark the glad and sad happenings of life both individually and corporately".

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

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

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

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 14

The Third Sunday of Advent; and John of the Cross, poet, teacher of the faith, 1591
God for whom we watch and wait,
your 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: Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

Mon 15

Pray for: Beverley Minster, St John and St Martin, St Peter, Woodmansey, St Leonard, Molescroft, All Saints, Routh, St Paul, Tickton

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Saint Helena – The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Tues 16

Pray for: Beverley, St Mary
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Saint Mark the Evangelist – The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Weds 17

O Sapientia – commencement of the 'O' Antiphons

Calendar of Saints: Eglantyne Jebb, social reformer, founder of 'Save the Children', 1928

Pray for: Beverley, St Nicholas

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Saldanha Bay – The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Thurs 18

O Adonai

Pray for: St Michael, Cherry Burton

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Salisbury – The Church of England

Fri 19

O Radix Jesse

Pray for: St Mary, Elton, St Mary, South Dalton

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of El Salvador – Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America

Sat 20

O Clavis David

Pray for: St Catherine, Leconfield, St Mary, Lockington, All Saints, Lund, St Leonard, Scarborough

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Sambalpur – The Church of North India (United)



Archbishop of York's Visit to the Junction Multibank

The Archbishop of York has visited the Junction Multibank in Middlesbrough, calling on the government to scrap the two-child limit and take urgent and decisive action on child poverty.

During the visit, the Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell met with multibank staff and local leaders, to hear about the impact of child poverty in Middlesbrough and the surrounding areas. The Multibank, which has distributed 1.5 million items to more than 224,000 individuals since it opened in November 2024, seeks to meet the immediate needs of families who are struggling with the challenges of hardship. It distributes support via a network of 1,259 referral partners, who provide on the ground relationships with families seeking support.

During the visit, Archbishop Stephen said: "I have been inspired by the work of the Junction Multibank and the efforts of local anti-poverty charities in the Tees Valley to support children and families. But the need for their services shames us as a society. As children head back to school, I hope and pray that the government will facilitate joined up policy to address systemic failures that cause child poverty, so that all our children grow up with hope, dignity and access to opportunities."

The visit particularly sought to highlight calls on the government to scrap the two-child limit and benefit cap as part of their child poverty strategy, due to be released in the autumn. Figures published in April by the DWP confirm that 19,580 families in the North East were hit by the two-child limit. Analysis from the North East Child Poverty Commission found that of these families, 59% are single parent families, 47% are families with at least one adult or child with a disability or health condition, and 52% of families have at least one parent or carer in work.

During the visit, Archbishop Stephen held a roundtable discussion with local leaders who are working to address rising levels of poverty in the Middlesbrough area. The discussion focussed on the impact of poverty on families in the region, and the steps government need to take to impact on children's futures.

Paul Wales, CEO of Actes Trust, said: "We have to invest in our young people, because they are not getting their childhood back. We need to work together, as organisations, to get the support to people who really need. The work we do mentors and advocates for kids. We pick them up when there has been in a bump in the road."

November

2nd – 8th November

Church of England:

Diocese of Winchester, Bishop Philip Moutstephen,
Bishop Rhiannon King, Archdeacon Kelly Betteridge -
Bishop designate of Basingstoke

Church of Norway:

Diocese of Agder and Telemark, Bishop Stein Reinertsen

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

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 2

Fourth Sunday before Advent

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: The Church of the Province of West Africa

Mon 3

Calendar of Saints: Richard Hooker, priest, teacher of the faith, 1600

Martin of Porres, friar, 1639

Pray for: Diocesan Mission, Ministry, and Discipleship Team

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Portsmouth – The Church of England

Tues 4

Pray for: Diocesan Board of Education and Education Team

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Pretoria – The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Weds 5

Pray for: Diocesan Advisory Committee; Church Building and Property Teams

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Puerto Rico – The Episcopal Church

Thurs 6

Calendar of Saints: Leonard, hermit, 6th Century; William Temple, archbishop, teacher of the faith, 1944

Pray for: Diocesan Board of Finance; Finance Team

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Pune – The Church of North India (United)

Fri 7

Calendar of Saints: Willibrord, bishop, 739

Pray for: Generous Giving Team

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Pungue River – Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola

Sat 8

Calendar of Saints: Saints and martyrs of England

Pray for: All General Practitioners and staff working in primary and community services
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Pyay – The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma)



Joy, Fellowship and Fun - Family Camp 2025

Rachel Watson, who organised this year's Diocesan Family Camp, shares her reflections on the weekend away this summer.

Family Camp 2025 was an amazing weekend full of joy, fellowship and fun! Held at Birch Hall Scout Campsite in Langdale End, we gathered as a community of between 60 and 70. Some guests chose to camp, some stayed in dormitories and others joined as day guests.

Family Camp is fully catered and everyone was well fed with Camp staples such as hot dogs and pasta bolognese! Returning families enjoyed reuniting with friends from Family Camp 2023 and 2024 and it was wonderful to see our community grow further in numbers this year. With a range of ages, there was something for everyone.

Workshops exploring the Rhythm of Life and Family Wellbeing gave guests space to share and listen to one another. Craft sessions were planned for little ones as well and archery for all ages was immensely popular! On Saturday evening, children and young people took part in sessions for specific age groups to enable them to explore faith with their peers. Bruce Clark led a fabulously engaging session for the teenagers.

Story Time with YoYo and Sweaty Church with Rev Glyn were also brilliant additions to this year's programme. We were blessed with glorious weather which meant the young people could play games and socialise together while the adults had time to relax and recharge in the beautiful surroundings of Langdale End.

To complete our weekend together, we gathered for a service of Holy Communion led by Bishop Barry. Sitting on the grass on picnic blankets, this informal service brought elements of the weekend together to celebrate and thank God for the community created at Family Camp and to send everyone out with joy! The Family Camp team has big plans for next year so please do pray for us and why not join us at Camp in 2026?

One of the teenagers said, "I love hanging out with other Christian teenagers at Family Camp. It is such a safe place where I can be myself and talk about my faith with other people. I always look forward to Family Camp and then come away feeling happy and full of the Holy Spirit."

Church of England:

Diocese of Chester, Bishop Mark Tanner, Bishop Julie Conalby,

Bishop Sam Corley

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:

Diocese of Kuopio, Bishop Jari Jolkkonen

Schools across the
Diocese of Cape Town

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 7

The Second Sunday of Advent; and Ambrose, bishop, teacher of the faith, 397

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: The Church of Bangladesh

Mon 8

Pray for: All Saints, Nafferton, St Mary, Wansford

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Ruwenzori – The Church of the Province of Uganda

Tues 9

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

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of East Ruwenzori – The Church of the Province of Uganda

Weds 10

Ember Day

Pray for: Human Rights Day

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of South Ruwenzori – The Church of the Province of Uganda

Thurs 11

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

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Sabah – Church of the Province of South East Asia

Fri 12

Ember Day

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

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Sabongidda-Ora – The Church of Nigeria

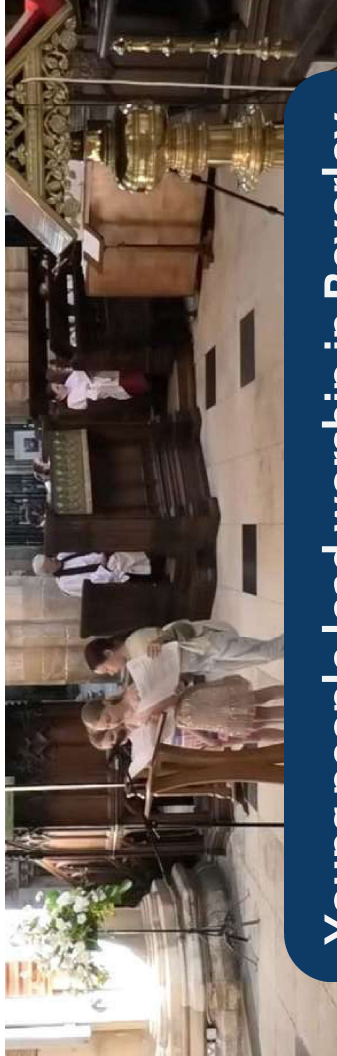
Sat 13

Ember Day

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

Pray for: Schools within the Harthill Deanery; Beswick and Watton CE School; Burton Agnes CE School; Driffild CE Infant School; Garton-on-the-Wolds CE School; Sledmere CE Primary School; Wetwang CE Primary School

Anglican Communion: The Sacred Circle – The Anglican Church of Canada



Young people lead worship in Beverley

Ben Merrell, Youth Worker at Beverly Minster, shares how young people are leading worship in Beverley.

The Sunday after Easter is usually one where those of us who work in the church have a bit of a breather after the busy-ness of Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Myself and Robert, the Director of Music here at Beverley Minster, mixed it up this year: one of us at Wydale helping run the GROW residential, and the other was assisting a fourteen-year-old Faith to play the organ at Beverley Minster for the morning communion service.

After returning to Beverley, Robert and I got together to compare notes about how impressed we were with what our young people had been up to. While at Wydale, the GROW cohort had planned and led the closing act of worship of the weekend.

A cunning plan was hatched: why couldn't we allow and encourage our young people to plan and lead an act of worship at the Minster? And so we did: over a slightly chaotic hour and a half, I led the young people who are part of our GROW group in planning the readings, theme, prayers, and layout of the service. The musical part of our worship was led by our girls' choir, conducted by one of the older girls, with Faith playing the organ again.

My prayer for the service was that the young people leading would feel encouraged, supported and enabled in being able to lead our congregation in worship, and so we made sure to help them feel as prepared as possible. One trio of girls led an icebreaker question and opening liturgy prayers and confession. Another group of girls led the prayers on intercession later on.

Some of the young people commented: "We discussed what we should do during the service and what it might include. I was very excited to lead parts of the service."

"When we first arrived, I felt a bit nervous but excited."

"I felt good about being able to lead the prayers in church."

"After we finished the service, I was very happy and proud of me and my friends."

We hope that now we've done this once, it can become a fixture in the diary of the Minster, that we are a community that sees and encourages our young people to develop their skills and gain confidence in leading prayers, music, and even services.

November

9th – 15th November

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 Overberg,
Diocese of False Bay

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 9

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 in the Province of the West Indies

Mon 10

Calendar of Saints: [Leo the Great, bishop, teacher of the faith, 461](#)

Pray for: Diocesan Pastoral and Synodical Team

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Ou'Appelle – The Anglican Church of Canada

Tues 11

Calendar of Saints: [Martin, bishop, c 397](#)

Pray for: Armistice Day

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Quebec – The Anglican Church of Canada

Weds 12

Pray for: Wydale Hall

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of North Queensland – The Anglican Church of Australia

Thurs 13

Calendar of Saints: [Charles Simeon, priest, evangelical divine, 1836](#)

Pray for: Diocesan Lifelong Learning and IME Teams

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Raiwind – The Church of Pakistan (United)

Fri 14

Calendar of Saints: [Samuel Seabury, bishop, 1796](#)

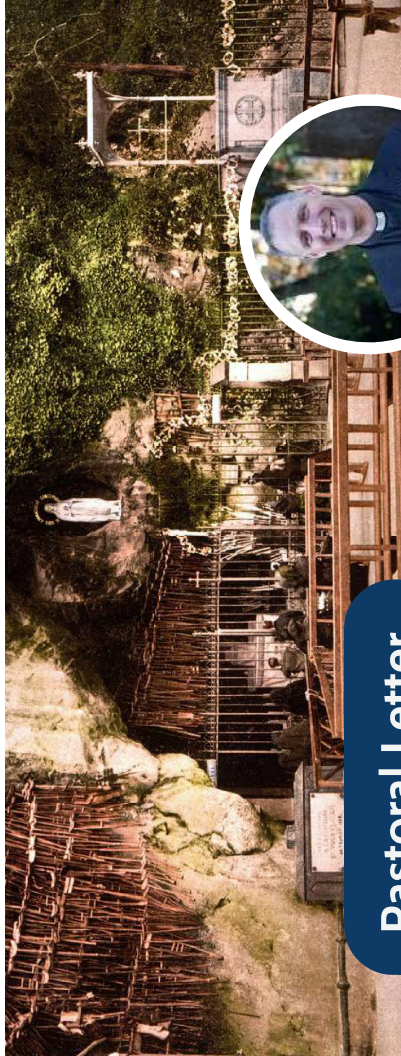
Pray for: Diocesan Communications Team 🙏

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Rajasthan – The Church of North India (United)

Sat 15

Pray for: Diocesan Multiply and Mustard Seed Programmes

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Rayalaseema – The Church of South India (United)



Pastoral Letter

A Pastoral Letter from The Rt Revd Stephen Race, Bishop of Beverley.

Another significant anniversary was marked earlier this year when the nation, led by King Charles III, remembered the moment 80 years ago when victory was declared over Japan and World War Two came to an end, some months after Victory in Europe was celebrated. Once again, with Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday fresh in our minds, I'm sure that I'm not the only one who is reflecting upon all the horrific conflicts fought across the world - some reported on in great detail by the western media and some less so - wondering why human beings are so addicted to violence. I dread to think what the cumulative annual military budget is for all the nations of the world.

The week after the nation remembered Victory over Japan, I joined about 90 other pilgrims for a visit to Lourdes organised by the Society of Mary. Lourdes has become known internationally as a place of healing and hope, having developed into a shrine to the Blessed Virgin Mary after a young peasant girl, Bernadette, saw Mary in a number of apparitions in 1858. Bernadette, a very devout young girl, was initially mocked and disbelieved; after all who gets visited by the Blessed Virgin Mary! In time she was believed in no small part because of her persistence, but also because she communicated messages that consistently drew people back to Jesus through repentance and conversion of the heart. This was a real case of 'let the little children come unto me, for to such as these belongs the Kingdom of Heaven.'

As we move on from this season of Remembrance towards the Feast of Christ the King and Advent, let us begin to think about how it is that we as individuals and as a nation need to recognise our need to repent and experience the conversion of our hearts. Lourdes remains a place of healing and hope for so many only because through St Bernadette and the Blessed Virgin we are directed to Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

Individuals, communities and nations will only heal and discover hope if we follow their example and through our lives point others to Jesus Christ, the Universal King.'

+Stephen Beverley

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

Anglican Women's Fellowship
(ACSA)

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 30

The First Sunday of Advent and Andrew the Apostle

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.

Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Australia

Mon 1

Pray for: World Aids Day

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Ruaha – The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Tues 2

Pray for: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Rumbek - Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

Weds 3

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

Prayer for: The Church of England's Children's Society

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Rumonge – The Anglican Church of Burundi

Thurs 4

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

Pray for: Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham: Southwell Cathedral

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Rupert's Land – The Anglican Church of Canada

Fri 5

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

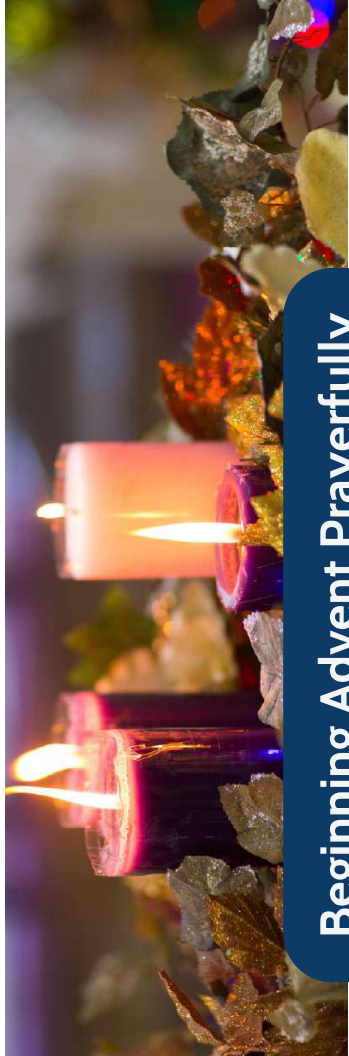
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Rutana – The Anglican Church of Burundi

Sat 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 Ruvuma – The Anglican Church of Tanzania



Beginning Advent Prayerfully

As we mark the beginning of Advent, the Revd Tom Bates-Bourne, Vicar of South Thornaby and member of the diocesan Worship Working Group, shares his reflections as the season begins.

'Prayer is like watching for the kingfisher,' writes the poet Ann Lewin, 'All you can do is be there where he is like to appear, and wait.' She goes on to talk about space, silence and expectancy, all characteristics we would like to attribute to Advent but which, for so many of us, can seem hard to come by. I remember the first time I saw a kingfisher. It is impossible to return to that place without looking for him again. There is an exhilaration and hope.

Our faith can be like that in Advent. This is a season of joyful expectation and, as we wait in the darkness, it can feel very much like Lewin's poem. As we fight off the rush and hurry of the seasonal preparations, sometimes we need to return to the place where the magic began for us.

For me this is always the kick of excitement I get on December 17th when the Advent Antiphons begin. No matter how organised I have been, or how many 'Christmas' services I have already attended, the power of singing and hearing these texts never fails to re-enchant Advent for me. I first encountered them as a cathedral chorister and I still

remember the music ascending into the December darkness, and the warm crucible of the candlelit choir stalls.

More often than not nowadays I shall sing them on my own as I pray evening prayer, but like the Kingfisher they still have the power to call me back to the magic of Advent: Jesus is coming! We associate people's great deeds with the end of their lives, yet here we are lauding the birth of this tiny baby with the 'hopes and fears of all the years' in ancient prophecy.

Each year we hold a service for people who struggle with the festivities. It is well attended, and profoundly moving as we sit in the silence of Advent 'watching for the kingfisher'. These beautiful antiphons say 'Surely he is coming soon'.

Maranatha - Come, Lord Jesus.

Additional Collect for the
First Sunday of Advent:

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.

November

16th - 22nd November

Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church:

Archbishop Urmas Viirma, Bishop Ove Sander (Northern Estonia), Bishop Marko Tiitus (Southern Estonia) Bishop Anti Toplaan (Western Estonia and the Islands)
Church of England:

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

Archdeaconry of Waterfront,
Diocese of Cape Town

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 16

The Second Sunday before Advent; and Safeguarding Sunday

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation:

stir us from our 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 Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria

Mon 17

Calendar of Saints: Hugh, bishop, 1200

Pray for: Diocesan Safeguarding Team

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Recife – Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

Tues 18

Calendar of Saints: Elizabeth, princess, philanthropist, 1231

Pray for: Dulverton Hall, Scarborough

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Rejaf – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

Weds 19

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

Pray for: The Community of the Holy Name, Hessele

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Remo – The Church of Nigeria

Thurs 20

Calendar of Saints: Edmund, king, martyr, 870

Priscilla Lydia Sellon, a restorer of the religious life in the Church of England, 1876

Pray for: St Botolph, Allertorpe, St Catherine, Barmby Moor, St Martin, Fangfoss, St Michael, Thornton, St Martin, Yapham

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Renk – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

Fri 21

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

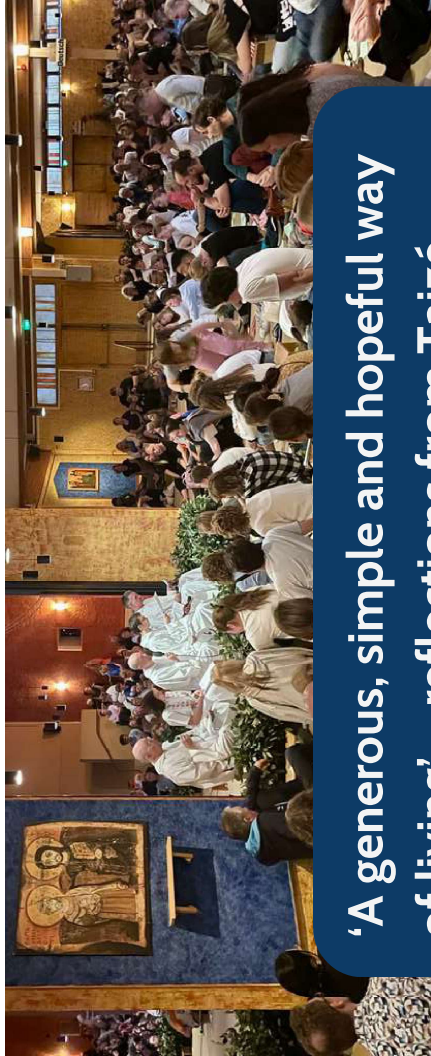
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Rhode Island – The Episcopal Church

Sat 22

Calendar of Saints: Cecilia, martyr, c230

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

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Rift Valley – The Anglican Church of Tanzania



'A generous, simple and hopeful way of living' – reflections from Taizé

In July, a group from the Diocese of York went on a pilgrimage to Taizé. Joined by Archbishop Stephen and other Church of England Dioceses, our group joined in the rhythm of life that Taizé offers through worship, Bible study, and community activities.

One of the pilgrims, Sonya Bushell, writes: Recently I joined a pilgrimage to Taizé organised by the Diocese of York. My week at Taizé was spent exploring beautiful French countryside; meeting young people from all over the world, living a life of simplicity in community; discussing life's challenges, faith and how to live meaningfully and kindly in the world; and singing beautiful music in a church three times a day.

I always describe Taizé as a cross between a festival and a monastery – the kind of place where one minute you're learning a Hungarian dance and drinking cider, the next you're looking up at the stars, and then you're singing by candlelight. It's a place where everyone is welcomed and included, regardless of belief, country or background. I love how Taizé combines inclusivity and welcome with a sense of commitment and deep rootedness to God.

The theme of the week was 'hoping beyond all hope' – such an important concept for the times

we are living in. During the week, we were able to share our doubts, sorrows, or fears – and yet we were also encouraged to reflect on where we found hope and how we could build hope. I was so grateful for the opportunity to be honest about life's struggles whilst also being prompted to look for, and nurture, goodness and hope in the world.

I came to Taizé with many questions. I'm not sure I got any answers. But I got the space to share my questions with others and reflect on life. I was invited into a generous, simple and hopeful way of living. It was a life which encouraged us to be kind to one another, and in sharing and receiving kindness, we could perhaps see a reflection of God's goodness, I left with more peace, more hope and more love in my heart.

Of course, now I am back in my ordinary life, there are two things that stay with me. Firstly, I see the importance of making time for rest and reflection. Secondly, I realised that although there is so much suffering and atrocities in the world, it is goodness and not evil that humans long for. I find hope in this – hope for humanity and hope that this longing for goodness reflects the goodness of God.

November

23rd – 29th November

Church of England:

Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich,
Acting Bishop Graham Knowles, vacancy Bishop of Dunwich

Scottish Episcopal Church:

Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney, Bishop Anne Dyer

Archdeaconry of Elsie's River,
Diocese of Saldanha Bay

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 23

Christ the King and the 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 in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

Mon 24

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

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Riverina – The Anglican Church of Australia

Tues 25

Calendar of Saints: Catherine, martyr, 4th cent.; Isaac Watts, hymn writer, 1748

Pray for: International Day for the elimination of violence against women

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Rochester (England) – The Church of England

Weds 26

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 Rochester (USA) – The Episcopal Church

Thurs 27

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

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Rockhampton – The Anglican Church of Australia

Fri 28

Pray for: St John the Baptist, Wilberfoss

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Rokon – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

Sat 30

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

Pray for: Diocesan Synod Meeting; Schools within the South Wold Deanery; Barnby Moor CE Primary School; Bishop Wilton CE School; Bugthorpe CE School; Fangfoss St Martin's CE School; Mount Pleasant CE Jrn School; Pocklington CE Infant School; Warton CE Primary School; Wilberfoss CE Primary School; Pocklington School
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Rorua – The Anglican Church of Tanzania