

DIOCESE OF YORK PRAYER DIARY

JANUARY – MARCH 2026



DIOCESE OF
YORK



www.dioceseofyork.org.uk



The Revd Canon Liz Hassall appointed as Archdeacon of York

The Revd Canon Liz Hassall has been appointed by the Archbishop of York as the new Archdeacon of York.

Canon Liz Hassall is currently Rector of the York City Centre churches and Associate Area Dean of York. She took on the role of Acting Archdeacon of York in April 2025 and represents the Diocese of York in the Church of England's General Synod.

As Archdeacon, alongside Bishop of Selby the Rt Revd Dr Flora Winfield, her responsibilities within the Archdeaconry of York (the City and Vale of York, and from the western edge of the Wolds to the far side of Selby) include overseeing church property, supporting clergy, and ensuring that proper and legal procedures are followed within deaneries and parishes, and for appointments.

Liz said, "Serving in the York City Centre Churches is a privilege which I have hugely enjoyed and valued over the last few years. Working as the Acting Archdeacon of York has

been a fascinating and rewarding journey and, after a period of prayerful discernment and a full appointment process, I'm delighted and honoured by Archbishop Stephen's invitation to accept the challenge of continuing in the permanent role, and broadening my ministry to serving the people of the villages and towns of the Archdeaconry of York."

Archbishop Stephen said, "We rejoice in the appointment of Canon Liz Hassall as Archdeacon of York. Her faithful service and commitment to the mission of Christ in this diocese has already borne great fruit. We pray for God's continued blessing on her as she takes up this new and wider ministry."

Liz will be collated as Archdeacon of York in the near future – timings for the service will be published as soon as they are confirmed.

Please pray for Liz as she begins this new ministry, and for all people and churches within the Archdeaconry of York.

Church of England:

Diocese of London, Bishop of London – vacancy, Bishop Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy, Bishop Emma Ineson, Bishop Anderson Jeremiah, Bishop Jonathan Baker, Bishop Ric Thorpe, Bishop of Stepney, vacancy

Church of Norway:

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

Diocese of Cape Town

Link Officers

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 4 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 of the Province of Central Africa

Mon 5 Pray for: St Hilda, Bilsdale Priory; St Andrew, Ingleby Greenhow; St Cuthbert, Kildale; St Augustine, Kirkby-in-Cleveland

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Upper Shire – The Church of the Province of Central Africa

Tues 6 Calendar: The Epiphany

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pray for: St Mary the Virgin, Nunthorpe

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Shyira – Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda

Weds 7 Pray for: St Peter & St Paul, Stokesley; St Martin, Seamer-in-Cleveland

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Shyogwe – Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda

Thurs 8 Pray for: The Whorlton Group: St Botolph, Carlton; All Saints, Crathorne; St Mary Magdalene, Faceby; St Cuthbert, Middleton-upon-Leven; St Mary, Potto; All Saints, Rudby-in-Cleveland; Whorlton Holy Cross, Old Church; Whorlton, Holy Cross, Swainby

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

Fri 9 Pray for: St Martin & St Hilary, Kirklevington; All Saints, Picton and Low Worsall; St Mary Magdalene, Yarm

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

Sat 10 Calendar of Saints: William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 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 Sittwe - The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma)



“May God continue to heal our landscape” Fylingdales C of E Primary School

The Langdale Moor wildfire began on the evening of 11 August 2025, spreading across the heather and peatland near the familiar silhouette of RAF Fylingdales. In the days that followed, the flames moved relentlessly, drawing in firefighting resources from across the county and from neighbouring fire and rescue services.

Our community has always held a deep connection to the moors with many members of the parent community also being part of the local fire service. The fire's damage to peat, heather, and the nesting sites of birds such as the curlew and lapwing was felt profoundly by the whole school community — not only because of the environmental loss, but because this landscape lies at the heart of our identity and heritage. The damage to the fragile peat, formed over centuries, reminded us how delicate creation can be, and how slow its healing.

Yet in the midst of this devastation, something beautiful rose. Our children felt moved to act as they wanted to acknowledge those who gave their time and energy to keep us safe. They wrote letters of thanks to the firefighters and farmers who worked day and night to keep us safe. When they spoke of heroes, they spoke of those who faced danger, harsh weather, unknown risks, long hours, and emotional strain—who stood on the front line not only to save lives, homes and livelihoods, but to protect the natural world that we cherish and that God has entrusted to us.

The children also noticed what adults sometimes overlook: that heroes came in many forms. Local residents, farmers, landowners, and volunteers stepped forward without hesitation. People offered food, water, shelter, and helping hands. Some of our pupils helped to gather refreshments for those battling the flames, learning that even the smallest act of kindness can carry great weight. Their collective effort made a real difference.

Visits to the local moorland are a core part of our curriculum and the children have reflected on the loss that we have seen and the start of the regeneration. Out of that reflection grew something hopeful: The children have created a stunning Christmas tree that stands in St Stephen's Church with decorations to represent our local moorland its wildlife, its colours, and the quiet strength it represents. This stands as a reminder of our remarkable community — of what we lost, but also of all we are grateful for after such a devastating summer. This is a testimony to the resilience and compassion of our remarkable community.

May God continue to heal our landscape, to strengthen those who serve, and to inspire us—children and adults alike—to be faithful stewards of the world we share.

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 Sophie Jelley, Bishop of Warwick, vacancy

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 11 The First Sunday of Epiphany and the Baptism of Christ

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

Anglican Communion: Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America**Mon 12 Calendar of Saints:** Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167, Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, Scholar, 689

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

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Sodor and Man- The Church of England**Tues 13 Calendar of Saints:** Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher, 367, Kentigern (Mungo), Missionary Bishop in Strathclyde and Cumbria, 603, George Fox, Founder of the Society of Friends (the Quakers), 1691**Pray for:** Diocesan Office, Diocesan Secretary and HR team**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Sokoto – The Church of Nigeria**Weds 14 Pray for:** Sector Chaplaincy including in sport, the arts, leisure, transport, industry, armed forces and the police**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Central Solomons – The Anglican Church of Melanesia**Thurs 15 Pray for:** York Diocesan Leadership Team**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Soroti – The Church of the Province of Uganda**Fri 16 Pray for:** HM Prison Kirklevington Grange**Anglican Communion:** The Diocese of Southwark – The Church of England**Sat 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, Bridlington, Malton Community, and The New Selby War Memorial Hospitals, 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 Southwell and Nottingham – The Church of England

Pastoral Letter



Dear sisters and brothers,

As we begin this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, what is the focus and goal of that prayer?

It has been tempting at various points in the ecumenical movement to focus on structural unity, seeing relational unity as the route to get there. Yet, as we have seen writ large through the experiences of the ecumenical, global move of prayer Thy Kingdom Come, it appears God is stirring the unity pot to remind us once again that our goal and focus is always relationships and unity in our structures can help (or sometimes distract) but are always in service of that relational goal.

This is what we see locally, that unity is often deepest when lay and ordained leaders get on, pray and, critically I find, eat together. It's not rocket science. It has been a great encouragement, therefore, over recent months to hear from Archbishop Stephen of trips to Rome, to deepen prayerfully relationships across historic divides. Structurally little has changed between Roman and Anglican denominations over the past year, but relationally we have seen much fruit.

This is, of course, what our Lord models and encourages, commends and commands, as in the prayer recorded in John 17, 'that they may be one even as We are one'. The Trinity wasn't formed in written constitution, or membership cards, subscriptions paid or even websites created, but in relationship. In a world that is evermore polarised, such relational unity is a great witness of hope and possibility to the wider world - for as Jesus also makes clear, proper unity will always be in essence evangelistic, witnessing to and inviting others into the community, belonging and family which we are privileged to know. So may we pray...

In that grace of Jesus Christ,

Barry

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

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 18 The Second Sunday of Epiphany*The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins until 25 January*

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: Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

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

Pray for: Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust providing mental health care services

Anglican Communion: The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain also known as the Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church – (Extra Provincial)

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

Pray for: Archbishop of York; The Most Rev. and the Rt Hon. Stephen Cottrell

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Spokane – The Episcopal Church

Weds 21 Calendar of Saints: Agnes, Child Martyr at Rome, 304

Pray for: Diocese of Durham; Durham Cathedral

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Springfield – The Episcopal Church

Thurs 22 Calendar of Saints: Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, first Martyr of Spain, 304

Pray for: Christ Church, Eston; St George, Normanby

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

Fri 23 Pray for: St Hilda of Whitby, Grangetown

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

Sat 24 Calendar of Saints: Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher, 1622

Pray for: St Barnabas, Linthorpe, and Commissioning of Diocesan Youth Discipleship Ambassadors

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

Draw closer to God this Lent with our new daily devotional – plus a special version for children to share the journey.

Find out more via
cofe.io/DrawNear



Draw Near: Living-Giving Habits for Lent

The Church of England's theme for Lent 2026 is **Draw Near: Life-giving habits for Lent**.

This year's resources have at their heart the theme of a 'rhythm of life' – habits and patterns which help us grow as disciples of Christ day by day, especially as we prepare to celebrate the great mystery of God's saving love at Easter.

During Lent, reflections are centred around a summary of the Christian Way from Common Worship, which identifies six activities essential to our calling as disciples.

Each week a different contributor explores a different aspect of Christian discipleship – **worshipping together, praying, exploring the Bible, sharing communion, offering service and sharing the good news** with others.

Alongside these reflections, which will be in booklet format and on the Everyday Faith app, further resources will include a 40-day Challenge for families and children, and small group study materials.

"Draw Near is all about teaching us how we can cultivate the habits and practices that will draw us nearer to God. And we will find that, in doing so, God will draw nearer to us, too."

Archbishop-elect Sarah Mullally & Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

Sammi Tooze, Diocesan Discipleship Discipleship Adviser, comments, "It's great to see the Church of England's Lent focus on life-giving habits. It speaks into so much of the culture we have been growing in our own diocese with the Rhythm of Life.

"As we grow in Becoming More Like Christ, Lent offers us a seasonal opportunity to intentionally reflect on the spiritual practices which we inhabit, and as communities, form a Rhythm of Life together.

"The life-giving habits of worship, prayer, scripture, communion, service, and sharing the Good News, echoes much of our own Diocesan Rhythm of Life, as well as connecting beautifully with the promises we make at baptism – as we seek to serve Christ in all people, by defending the weak, and seeking peace and justice."

DRAW NEAR
LIFE-GIVING HABITS FOR LENT

Church of England:

Diocese of Birmingham, Bishop Michael Volland,

Bishop Esther Prior

Church of Ireland:

Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Bishop Paul Colton

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:

Diocese of Elsinore, Bishop Peter Birch

Diocese of Cape Town;

for its diocesan office, staff, and all who
work, minister and serve in that place

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

- Sun 25** **The Third Sunday of Epiphany and the Conversion of St Paul**
 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: Iglesia Anglicana de Chile
- Mon 26** **Calendar of Saints: Timothy and Titus, Companions of Paul**
Pray for: St Cuthbert, Marton with Easterside
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Sur – Iglesia Anglicana de Chile
- Tues 27** **International Holocaust Memorial Day**
 Loving God, we come to you with heavy hearts, remembering the six million Jewish souls
 murdered during the Holocaust. In the horrors of that history, we recognise destructive
 prejudices that drive people apart. Forgive us when we give space to fear, negativity and
 hatred of others, simply because they are different from us. Through our prayers and
 actions, help us to stand together with those who are suffering, so that light may banish
 all darkness, love will prevail over hate and good will triumph over evil. Amen.
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Del Sureste – La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico
- Weds 28** **Calendar of Saints: Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher, 1274**
Pray for: All Saints, Middlesbrough
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Swansea and Brecon – The Church in Wales
- Thurs 29** **Pray for:** St Columba with St Paul, Middlesbrough; St John the Evangelist, Middlesbrough
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Sydney – The Anglican Church of Australia
- Fri 30** **Calendar of Saints: Charles, King and Martyr, 1649**
Pray for: St Oswald and St Chad, Middlesbrough
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Tabora – The Anglican Church of Tanzania
- Sat 31** **Calendar of Saints: John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888**
Pray for: St John the Evangelist, South Bank and St Thomas the Apostle, Brambles Farm
Anglican Communion: Te Pihopatanga o Te Tokerau – The Anglican Church in Aotearoa,
 New Zealand and Polynesia



Experiencing Wellbeing at Holy Rood House

So many factors contribute to our sense of wellbeing or overwhelm.

When people come and stay at Holy Rood it's the simple things which are most life-giving. If you are the care-giver or you live alone, deciding what to eat, shopping, cooking and clearing up can become daily chores. Being looked after, even just for a week or weekend, can feel like a precious gift.

Noticing what gives us energy and what saps it is an important element on our healing journey – different for each of us. If we have experienced chronic fatigue we have learned how to attend to the “teaspoons” of energy each task uses up. We learn that we must be careful not to use our last teaspoon of energy or it takes us much longer to recover.

Some of us use energy simply to survive. For those of us with chronic anxiety or depression it takes a disproportionate amount of energy to get out of bed in the morning or to sleep well at night. We find ourselves constantly exhausted, depleting our ability to cope with the smallest challenges. Stepping aside from these demands, even for a short while, can help us regain lost perspective and balance.

Some of us recognise how neurodiversity demands a different kind of energy from us. Interactions which others seem to manage without thinking can leave us feeling depleted and drained. Finding a safe enough space to recover our energy can be life-giving.

For some of us our experience of church can be exhausting. If the message being preached silences our own lived experience we end up constantly questioning ourselves. Here at Holy Rood our welcome and our prayers are rooted in the belief that all are known and loved exactly as we are.

If our experience of love is not affirmed by our communities, if our families or faith communities reject us because of such a basic part of who we are, where do we go?

God's unconditional love is difficult to comprehend but what we experience here is that true acceptance breaks the boundaries caused by fear and exclusion. This enables all of us to become more fully human. It might seem simple but we know its power to bring us to life.

Church in Wales:

Diocese of Bangor, vacancy, Bishop David Morris

Church of Ireland:

Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough,

Archbishop Michael Jackson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Faroe Islands:

Bishop Jógvan Friðriksson

Anglicans Ablaze:

A group of organisations within the Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA) who desire to be set ablaze with God's love and power in order to build up the church and to serve God in the world. 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 1 The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

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 Church of England

Mon 2 **Calendar:** The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

Pray for: The Ascension, Middlesbrough

Anglican Communion: Te Pihopatanga o Te Tairawhiti – The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

Tues 3 **Calendar of Saints:** Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg, Missionary in Denmark and Sweden, 865

Pray for: Holy Trinity, North Ormesby

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Taita-Taveta – The Anglican Church of Kenya

Weds 4 **Calendar of Saints:** Gilbert of Sempringham, Founder of the Gilbertine Order, 1189

Pray for: Archbishop's Council

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Taiwan – The Episcopal Church

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

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

Fri 6 **Calendar of Saints:** The Martyrs of Japan, 1597

Pray for: St Cuthbert, Ormesby

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

Sat 7 **Pray for:** St Mark, South Thornaby; St Peter Ad Vincula and St Mary Magdalene, South Thornaby

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Central Tanganyika – The Anglican Church of Tanzania

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 08.02.26

Racial Justice Sunday: Love your neighbour

This year's theme for Racial Justice Sunday is Love your neighbour. When Jesus tells a lawyer that to inherit eternal life, he must love God with his whole being and love his neighbour as himself, the lawyer asks, 'Who is my neighbour?' (Luke 10.25-37). Against a background of increasing hostile and racist rhetoric about migrants and refugees, the question takes on renewed urgency for us today.

What answer was the lawyer hoping to hear? Perhaps he wanted to know who belongs to God's people. Who was in and who was out because then he could determine who he owed his neighbourly love to. Jesus responded to his question with the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Overfamiliarity with this story dulls us to the shock that would have been felt by its original hearers. It wasn't simply that Jews and Samaritans didn't like each other. As far as the Jews were concerned, and as far as the lawyer was concerned, the Samaritans were ceremonially unclean, socially outcast and religiously heretics. They were in every respect the very opposite of the lawyer, and yet it is the Samaritan, and not the Priest or Levite, who comes to the aid of the man who was robbed and beaten.

In our world today, some also may want to ask with the lawyer, 'Who is my neighbour?' Who belongs? Some people might argue that this person isn't my neighbour because of who they are, or because of something they have done or haven't done, or because of what they think or believe. Some people might want to say if you are here 'illegally', I'm not obliged to help you.

The man lying on the road, having been beaten and stripped of his clothes, is completely anonymous. He could be anyone and that's the point. In his need it doesn't matter who he is or who he isn't. Whether he is in or out. Whether he belongs or not. Jesus teaches, and shows us by his example, that there are no boundaries to neighbourly love.

With all this in mind, let us use Racial Justice Sunday (and every other Sunday) to remember, reflect and respond; to remember that racism and its effects are real, to reflect on Christ's command to love our neighbour, and to respond by working for racial justice through prayer and action.

Find out more and access the resources from:

<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources/racial-justice-sunday-8-february-2026/>

Church of England:

Diocese of Worcester, vacancy, Bishop Martin Gorick (Acting Bishop)

Church of Norway:

Diocese of Hamar, Bishop Ole Kristian Bonden

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 8 **The Second Sunday before Lent and Racial Justice Sunday**

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: Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

Mon 9 **Pray for:** General Synod commences meeting until Friday 13th

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of South West Tanganyika – The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Tues 10 **Calendar of Saints: Scholastica, sister of Benedict, Abbess of Plombariola, c. 543**

Pray for: St Martin of Tours with St Cuthbert, Middlesbrough

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Western Tanganyika – The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Weds 11 **Pray for:** The Brambles Farm, Thorntree and Netherfields Mission Initiative

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

Thurs 12 **Pray for:** St Mary, West Acklam

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

Fri 13 **Pray for:** Schools in Middlesbrough Deanery: Thornaby-on-Tees C of E

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

Sat 14 **Pray for:** Cyril and Methodius, Missionaries to the Slavs, 869 and 885, Valentine, Martyr at Rome, c.269

Anglican Communion: Diocese of Chester; Chester Cathedral



Pastoral Letter



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

We may often find that we can do things with other people that we find hard to do by ourselves. This is part of the huge success of Park Runs. The comradeship and shared encouragement of this running community is a huge contrast to the often quite isolating experience of going for a weekly jog on your own initiative! The people of God have always had times and seasons to support each other in our life of faith. This is a true gift. Whilst we might choose to fast at any time throughout the year, particularly for specific situations or people, Lent is a season that calls us all into greater spiritual intention together.

It is a time when we are humble as a whole church.

We choose to walk slowly with Jesus to the cross. Each in our own journey, but together as a shared commitment to Christ.

Our fasting and greater spiritual intentions reveal to us, yet again, our need for God. The practice of fasting opens our eyes to our inner world and desires quite like nothing else! In Lent, we can know that our wider church family are urging us on in this shared season of spiritual disciplines. But we must also know that the church is simply made up of many, many people all seeking to walk this path together. A shared intention across the whole church is a powerful thing. We see this impact, for example, in the stories that surround world days of prayer. Being a humble church, choosing to embrace, the spiritual disciplines of Lent, is formed by us choosing to act both individually and together. Even if part of our Lenten journey is to embrace the spiritual practice of solitude, we can know that we are part of a much bigger church family and community. So let us urge one another on this Lent, as we walk together to the cross...and know that there is a heavenly, as well as earthly, community urging us on too!

+Eleanor Sanderson

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

Anglican Church

of South Africa (ACSA)

Safe and Inclusive Church
Commission

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 15 **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 Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean

Mon 16 **Pray for:** Diocese of Leeds; Bradford, Ripon and Wakefield Cathedrals
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Tennessee – The Episcopal Church

Tues 17 **Calendar of Saints:** Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, Martyr, 1977
Pray for: Teesside University; Students, staff and chaplaincy services
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of East Tennessee – The Episcopal Church

Weds 18 **Calendar: 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 West Tennessee – The Episcopal Church

Thurs 19 **Pray for:** South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust: including James Cook
University Hospital, Middlesbrough, Friarage Hospital, Northallerton, primary care
hospitals in East Cleveland, Redcar and Guisborough; and other outreach services;
Teesside Hospice, Middlesbrough
Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Terekeka – Province of the Episcopal
Church of South Sudan

Fri 20 **Pray for:** Work across the Diocese to provide children, youth and families work
Anglican Communion: The Territory of the People – The Anglican Church of Canada

Sat 21 **Pray for:** Archdeacon of Cleveland
Anglican Communion: The Missionary Diocese of Tete – Igreja Anglicana de
Mocambique e Angola



Making God's wonderful creation cleaner

At the start of October, the Bishopthorpe Road Parishes (3 churches south of York City Centre) held our first Community Litter Pick as part of our Eco Church work.

We started at St Chad's Church, working our way along the terraces of South Bank towards St Clement's Church where we enjoyed drinks and cake together. The event brought together members of the church congregations, church toddler group and others from the local community.

The idea for the event was sparked by Jessica, aged nine, who attends weekly 'Toast' worship at St Clement's. Having learned about environmental issues at school and connected this with worship reflecting on our treatment of God's creation, she got talking to Nicola, our lay leader and Eco Church coordinator.

Fast forward a few weeks and Jess had asked for a litter picker for her birthday, then Nicola had invited her to lead a church event to put it to good use. Our existing eco group (and York Council's free litter picking equipment hire!) provided further support and encouragement.

An hour's picking one sunny Sunday afternoon yielded two large bin bags full of litter and some great conversations about how we care for God's world, including how to find opportunities for young people to be actively involved in this.

Jess reflected: "I felt amazed that the litterpick worked so successfully and I was very proud of the turnout. The outcome made me feel like God's wondrous creation had been made ten times cleaner in just one hour."

We hope and pray for our Eco Church efforts to multiply and be a means of forging links with our parish neighbours, and for God to point us towards other ways we can better care for his world.



Lord God, you draw us by your beauty and transform us by your holiness; let our worship echo all creation's praise and declare your glory to the nations; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Church of England:

Diocese of Peterborough, Bishop Debbie Sellin,
Bishop John Holbrook

Church of Ireland:

Diocese of Meath and Kildare, Bishop Pat Storey

The Bishop of False Bay;

Bishop Stafford Moses

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 22

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 Church of Ireland

Mon 23

Calendar of Saints: Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr, c. 155

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

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Texas – The Episcopal Church

Tues 24

Pray for: Derwent Ings Benefice: Holy Trinity, Elvington; St Mary, East Cottingwith;
St Michael, Sutton on Derwent; St Helen, Thorganby; St Helen, Wheldrake.

Fourth anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Northwest Texas – The Episcopal Church

Weds 25

Calendar: Ember Day

Pray for: St Thomas, Osbaldwick; St James, Murton

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of West Texas – The Episcopal Church

Thurs 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 Thika – The Anglican Church of Kenya

Fri 27

Calendar of Saints: George Herbert, Priest Poet, 1633; Ember Day

Pray for: All Saint's Barlby; St Mary, Riccall, St Mary, Hemingbrough; St Andrew, Cliffe

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Thoothukudi-Nazareth – The Church of South India (United)

Sat 28

Calendar: Ember Day

Pray for: St Helen, Escrick; St Matthew, Naburn; St Helen, Stillingfleet

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



St Mary Magdalene, Yarm, launches successful café

In Stokesley Deanery at the church of St Mary Magdalene, Yarm there was a vision to open up the church to the community more hours each week.

In 2023 there was a step in faith to launch a café in the north aisle (previously re-ordered as a social space for refreshments) serving high quality ethically sourced beverages, with home baked cakes and scones. This opened three mornings a week. Part of the philosophy was based on Yarm attracting people for shopping, business and tourism to the High Street and using social media to encourage them to go a little further to visit the church which is on a parallel road.

We were blessed with congregational skills to develop the project through to launch including a professionally trained baker leading the baking team. Naturally, there was also a need for volunteers to run the café itself day to day.

How has it gone? The café is a success and has a regular clientele, including, for example, individuals looking for friendship, cycling club members taking a break, and people hosting small group meetings. It is a useful informal setting for pastoral meetings, for example, to discuss baptisms with parents.

Space and a children's corner with lots of toys have encouraged customers and 'Bumps & Bundles' is a group helping with new and expectant mums that uses the café as a base. It has helped blur the barrier between "the church" and "the town".

Periodically the café has a morning where all proceeds go to charity, such as a local hospice or a national fundraising effort, like Children in Need. This helps demonstrate love in action and build connections. Longer term, the aim is for café proceeds to go towards the constant need for funds for maintaining the Georgian church in good order.

Complementary to the café it was possible, for example, to host railway models celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Stockton & Darlington railway in 2025 showing the layout of the pioneering railway. This had much resonance as railway backers now famously met in a Yarm pub for a crucial discussion in 1820.

This has been such a fruitful way of opening our doors and offering hospitality to our community.

Church of England:

Diocese of Canterbury, Archbishop Designate, Sarah Mullaly,
Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin

Church of Ireland:

Diocese of Down and Dromore, Bishop David McClay

Anglican Church

of Southern Africa (ACSA)

Anglican Students Federation

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 1 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 Nippon Sei Ko Kai

Mon 2 Calendar of Saints: Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary, 672

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 Toamasina – The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean

Tues 3 Pray for: Area and Lay Deans

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Tohoku - The Nippon Sei Ko Kai

Weds 4 Prayer for: Lay Officers; including Deanery Financial Advisers, churchwardens, treasurers, secretaries, vergers, safeguarding officers and electoral roll officers

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Tokyo -The Nippon Sei Ko Kai

Thurs 5 Pray for: Diocese of Manchester; Manchester Cathedral

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Toliara – The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean

Fri 6 Pray for: World Day of Prayer, focusing in 2026 on Nigeria

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

Sat 7 Calendar of Saints: Perpetua, Felicity and their Companions, Martyrs at Carthage, 203

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

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



Storytelling key theme in Dean of Women's Ministry Conference

The Revd Canon Dianne Gamble, Dean of Women's Ministry in the Diocese of York, reflects on the recent NADAWM Conference.

Stories can be how we communicate best. We read stories and fall in love with the characters. The stories of the Bible can help us understand and relate to who God is and what that means for us as we try to follow Jesus more than the books of the law do.

At the National Association of Diocesan Advisers in Women's Ministry (NADAWM) conference in May 2025, we explored what are the stories we have to tell.

How has God called us to ministry and how might this look different to the experience of men? How do we challenge how the church tries to shape us into being the same as men - when the vestments are too big for us and we can't see over the top of the pulpit? How do we challenge the narrative and expectations others try to place on us when that is not what God calls us to do or to be?

We all have our own stories to tell. Stories of the times life was tough and we might have wondered where God was in the midst of it. Stories of the times we realised God was close by our side, helping us take the next step along the path. Stories of the times God filled us with joy. Stories of the people God put in our way to help us and encourage us. Stories of the moments of wonder when we saw God revealed in a new way. Stories of when God challenged us to speak up against injustice.

We all have stories to tell. And we need to hear other people's stories. When we have the courage to share our stories we encourage others to tell theirs too.

What story is God encouraging you to tell someone today?

Dianne promotes and champions both lay and ordained women's ministries in the Diocese of York, advocating for the full inclusion, flourishing, and equality of ordained women in every part of church life. You can contact Dianne on DAWM@yorkdiocese.org

Church of England:

Diocese of Chelmsford, Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani.

Bishop Roger Morris, Bishop Lynne Cullens, Bishop Adam Atkinson

Church of Sweden:

Diocese of Karlstad, Bishop Sören Dalevi

Archdeaconry of Groote Schuur;

Diocese of Cape Town

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 8 The Third Sunday of Lent and International Women's Day

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Anglican Communion: The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East

Mon 9 Pray for: Holy Nativity, Eastfield; Westway Open Arms, Eastfield

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

Tues 10 Pray for: St John the Evangelist, Filey; St Oswald, Filey; St Thomas, Grinstead

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Trichy-Tanjore – The Church of South India (United)

Weds 11 Pray for: The North Scarborough Group (2): St Laurence, Scalby; St Peter, Hackness; St Margaret, Harwood Dale

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Trinidad and Tobago – The Church in the Province of the West Indies

Thurs 12 Pray for: Hertford benefice: St John, Folkton; St Nicholas, Ganton; St Peter, Willerby, All Saints, Hunmanby; All Saints, Muston

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

Fri 13 Pray for: The North Scarborough Group (3); St Mark, Newby; St Luke, Scarborough

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe – The Church of Ireland

Sat 14 Pray for: St Columba, Scarborough; St James with Holy Trinity, Scarborough

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



Pastoral Letter

A Pastoral Letter from The Ven Liz Hassall, Archdeacon of York

I was once given a card for Mothering Sunday which took a phonetic approach to spelling: “Happy Mover’s Day” was the greeting. I was, of course, charmed by the misspelling and it got me thinking about Mothering as a verb. To Mother someone is to care for them but, more than that, to enable them to develop. Perhaps “Mover’s Day” is a good way to describe it. As a parent, I am constantly moving my children on to the next thing: moving them from crawling to walking, primary to secondary, dependence to independence.

Mothering Sunday, as we celebrate in church, is not really a day for Mothers in the biological sense. Rather, it is a day for Movers, for those who care for others in any way, for those who move whole communities on. It is a day for thanking those who have nurtured and taught us and enabled us to grow as part of Mother Church.

I’ve often spoken to people who find Mothering Sunday too difficult so, even if they go to church every week of the year, they will not go that day. Sometimes there are difficult memories or grief or a sadness of missed opportunities. This week, I invite you to pray for those for whom any day of family celebration is painful, for whatever reason.

Wherever you are for Mothering Sunday, and whatever your feelings about it, I encourage you to keep in mind the gospel image of the love of Jesus being like a hen gathering chicks under her wings (Matthew 23). Although we human beings, just like chicks, tend to run off in all directions, it is when we return to God that we find comfort, warmth and peace from the overwhelming and everlasting love of the Almighty Mother/Mover.

Archdeacon Liz Hassall

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia:

Archbishop Rinalds Grants, Bishop Einārs Alpe, Bishop Hanss Martins
Jensons, Bishop Uldis Gailitis

Church of England:

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

Church in Wales:

Diocese of St David's, Bishop Dorrien Davies

Provincial Synod of South Africa

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 15 The Fourth Sunday of Lent and Mothering Sunday, also World Water Day

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Kenya

Mon 16 **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 Udi – The Church of Nigeria

Tues 17 **Calendar of Saints:** Patrick, Bishop, Missionary, Patron of Ireland, c.460

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

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

Weds 18 **Calendar of Saints:** Cyril, Bishop of Jerusalem, Teacher, 386

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

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

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

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

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

Fri 20 **Calendar of Saints:** Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 687

Pray for: Diocese of York Vocations Team

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

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

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

Anglican Communion: Te Pihopatanga o Te Upoko o Te Ika – The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia



Farlington celebrates the farming year

Each year, the Church of St Leonard's, Farlington celebrates the farming year. We do this as our small village is in the centre of a productive farming community

The church's calendar has four key occasions for recognising the farming year – Plough Sunday, Rogationtide, Lammastide and Harvest Festival.

Plough Sunday – at the beginning of January. This was 'seedtime' when farmers took out the plough (often stored in church) to prepare the soil and sow the seed. This is a great opportunity for singing *We Plough the Fields and Scatter* in winter and the service is followed by a warming "ploughman's lunch."

Rogationtide – in May. The time in the Christian calendar when we ask for God's blessings for agriculture, supporting industry, a good harvest and community well-being. The name derives from the Latin "rogare," meaning "to ask". We hold our Rogation service on a farm or in the churchyard facing the fields. Followed by a wonderful, community tea.

Lammastide – is in August. The word is derived from Loaf Mass – a special Eucharistic celebration for giving thanks for the harvest bounty; blessing and using a loaf made from the first grain of the harvest. And a picnic in the churchyard follows.

Harvest Festival – most churches hold a harvest festival service decorating the building with offerings from fields and gardens through to canned and dried products. All are part of the food chain - brought to us by the work of farmers, distributors and sales outlets.

Celebrate the farming season of the year. Without that cycle of food production, 'give us this day our daily bread' becomes just empty rhetoric.

Please pray for farmers across our Diocese as they work in all weathers to care for the crops and animals on which we depend for our daily food.

Pray especially for those struggling with current financial and environmental challenges.

Also, remember in your prayers all the people in the food production chain links who bringing 'the farm to the plate.'

Finally, reach out beyond our Diocese, beyond our country and pray for farmers worldwide doing their very best to feed a hungry world.

Church of Sweden:

Diocese of Lund, Bishop Johan Tyrberg

Church of Ireland:

Diocese of Cashel, Ossory and Ferns, Bishop Adrian Wilkinson

Church of England:

Diocese of Ely, vacancy, Bishop Dagmar Winter (Acting Bishop)

Archdeaconry of Paarl;

Diocese of Saldanha Bay

Porvoo Communion

South Africa Diocesan Link

Sun 22 The Fifth Sunday of Lent; Passiontide begins

Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Korea

Mon 23 Pray for: Bishopthorpe Palace

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Uruguay – The Anglican Church of South America

Tues 24 **Calendar of Saints:** Walter Hilton of Thurgarton, Augustinian Canon, Mystic, 1396, Paul Couturier, Priest, Ecumenist, 1953, Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, Martyr, 1980

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

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Utah – The Episcopal Church

Weds 25 **Calendar:** The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Pray for: Enthronement of the Archbishop of Canterbury,
Dame Sarah Mullaly

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

Thurs 26 **Calendar of Saints:** Harriet Monsell, Founder of the Community of St John the Baptist, Clewer, 1883

Pray for: St Margaret, Brotton Parva

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Valparaiso – Iglesia Anglicana de Chile

Fri 27 **Pray for:** Christ Church, Coatham; All Saints, Dormanstown

Anglican Communion: The Diocese of Vanuatu – The Anglican Church of Melanesia

Sat 28 **Pray for:** All Saints, Easington; St Hilda, Liverton Mine; St Michael, Liverton

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



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 Archdeacons of York, False Bay with the Archdeacons of Cleveland, and the Diocese of Cape Town with the Archdeacons 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

Anglican Communion

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

Find out more at anglicancommunion.org.

Ember Days

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

Praying for Children and Young People

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

Find out more and join the prayer:

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



Stories

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



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dioceseofyork.org.uk/diocesan-prayer-diary.



www.dioceseofyork.org.uk