

Cumbria Prayer Diary



**December 2021
& January 2022**

*Praying with our fellow Christians in
Cumbria, together with our link dioceses of
Northern Argentina, Stavanger and Zululand*

The ongoing lockdown means it is impossible to print off hard copies of the prayer diary for the foreseeable future.

We will continue to pray for those who are in the front line of dealing with the current pandemic and the use of the following prayer is encouraged:

**Loving God, as your Son healed the sick
And brought good news to the needy
Be with us this day.**

**Loving Jesus as you taught us to
'Do unto others as you would have them do to you'
Be with all the medical staff this day.**

**Loving spirit, your gift is healing,
Bring your healing fire to our homes, our hospitals
and our county,
But most of all, be with us this day. Amen**

For full information of the Anglican Communion please visit

<https://www.anglicancommunion.org/resources/cycle-of-prayer.aspx>

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Week Forty-Seven Theme – Ecumenical County Sunday 28th November – Advent Sunday

Ecumenical – giving thanks for the fifth anniversary of the signing of the ecumenical covenant. For our partner and companion denominations. For the service of reaffirmation of the ecumenical county this afternoon at the Keswick Methodist Church at 3pm

Coronavirus – for the community hospitals, for all those caring for the community at this time

God for All - Pray for IME1 students (ordinands and Readers in training) starting their contrasting parish placements at the start of Advent

World Church - Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

Bishop James - Reaffirmation of the Ecumenical Covenant Service

Monday 29th November

Ecumenical – for all church leaders:
Brian Jolly and the URC North West Synod;
Bishop James and the Carlisle Diocese;
James Tebutt and the Methodist District;
Bishop Paul and the Lancaster Diocese;
David Taylor and the Salvation Army;
and for those who act as co-ordinators for other churches, Andrew Dodd and Baptist chapels; Bill Bewley and Society of Friends; and the Borderkirk, together with independent church fellowship.

World Church - The Diocese of Idoani – The Church

of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ondo Province)

Bishop James – attending the Bishop's Leadership Team meeting

Tuesday 30th November

St Andrew

Andrew led his brother to meet Jesus. He is the patron saint of all missionaries and fishermen. As patron saint of Scotland his flag is a reminder of his martyrdom for the faith.

Ecumenical – for all Churches Together groups in the county, for the county President Andrew Dodd, County Social Responsibility Officer Jo Philips and Anna Chaplaincy Co-ordinator Katherine Froggatt

World Church - The Diocese of Ife – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ibadan Province)

Wednesday 1st December

Charles de Foucauld

Charles died in 1916 living as a hermit among the Tuareg of Algeria. Despite not achieving his aim of founding a contemplative community in his lifetime, his example has inspired the worldwide community of the Little Brothers of Jesus. He is best known for his personal prayer of abandonment:

*Father, I abandon myself into your hands;
do with me what you will.*

*Whatever you may do, I thank you:
I am ready for all, I accept all.*

*Let only your will be done in me,
and in all your creatures –
I wish no more than this, O Lord.
Into your hands, I commend my soul:
I offer it to you with all the love of my heart,
for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself,
to surrender myself into your hands without reserve,
and with boundless confidence,
for you are my Father. **Amen***

Ecumenical – for those who are part of the ecumenical governance of the county, especially for the regular church leaders' meetings, the Strategic and Operations Group meetings, as well as the DEOs for each denomination.

World Church - The Diocese of Ife East – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ibadan Province)

Thursday 2nd December

Ecumenical – for all our Mission Communities, giving thanks for our common mission and witness to the gospel, for innovative and creative ways to express our common discipleship as fellows of Jesus.

World Church - The Diocese of Ifo – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Lagos Province)

Friday 3rd December

Ecumenical – for the national ecumenical structures of each denomination and for the work of Churches Together in England, especially for Paul Goodliff in his work as General secretary.

World Church - The Diocese of Igbomina – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Kwara Province)

Saturday 4th December

Nicholas Ferrar

Nicholas was a friend of George Herbert. At the beginning of the seventeenth century he took his family to Little Gidding and founded a High Church community. His example and writings are distinctively Anglican and he inspired many writers, most notably T S Elliott. His community was re-founded in 1970 by the Pilsden community with two houses in Dorset and Kent.

Ecumenical – for the World Council of Churches and their response to the world-wide coronavirus pandemic, for our brothers and sisters in countries across the world.

World Church - The Diocese of Igbomina – West -The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Kwara Province)

Bishop James – leading Teaching Day at Ulverston Parish Church

Week Forty-eight Theme – Methodist District and New Churches - Sunday 5th December – Advent 2

Ecumenical – Pray for James Tebbutt as District Chair, Janice Rusling Synod Secretary and Glynis Hayton District Treasurer

Coronavirus – for the community hospitals, for all those caring for the community at this time

God for All - Pray for Christian Communities across Cumbria as we seek new ways of communicating the Christmas message of hope, peace, joy and love come down this year.

World Church - The Anglican Church of Burundi

Monday 6th December

St Nicholas

Bishop Nicolas of Myra in the fourth century. Most famous for his acts of kindness, especially on behalf of children and orphans. Over the centuries, the customs associated with him have led to the personification of gift giving in Santa Claus. Today we celebrate charities which act after his example in caring for children.

Ecumenical – for the Districts Circuits for all ministers, stewards and churches locally

World Church - The Diocese of Ihiala – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Niger Province)

Tuesday 7th December

St Ambrose

St Ambrose was Bishop of Milan and one of the first theologians living in the fourth century. He was a firm opponent of Arianism. He is one of the Western Church's four fathers of the faith.

Ecumenical – for all Methodist Deacons and their District Guild, we give thanks for their role within local Mission Communities

World Church - The Diocese of Ijebu – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Lagos Province)

Wednesday 8th December

Ecumenical – for the work of Graham Kay as District Safeguarding Officer and for the close working between all the denominations of the ecumenical county in this important area of responsibility

World Church - The Diocese of Ijebu - North - The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Lagos Province)

Thursday 9th December

Ecumenical – for the links between the District and worldwide Methodism, giving thanks for the link to the Argentinian Methodist Church

World Church - The Diocese of Ijebu South West – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Lagos Province)

Friday 10th December

Ecumenical – for all new and independent churches in the county giving thanks for their vibrancy in the Gospel and for working with other local churches

World Church - The Diocese of Ijesa North East –
The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)
(Ibadan Province)

Saturday 11th December

Ecumenical – for all fresh expressions of church and for all local fellowships bringing fresh disciples into the faith

World Church - The Missionary Diocese of Ijesha
North – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)
(Ibadan Province)

Bishop James - Teaching Day at Workington

Week Forty-nine – RC Diocese of Lancaster & Communities of Prayer - Sunday 12th December – Advent 3

Ecumenical – for Bishop Paul Swarbrook and the RC parishes and priests of the county, for the Sisters at Boarbank and their care for all in need

Coronavirus – for the ICUs in the county, for those receiving critical care and for all staff

God for All - Pray for the planning for the Cumbria Big Carol Sing Christmas campaign, involving Radio Cumbria and drawing in people right across the county.

World Church - The Anglican Church of Canada

Bishop James - Confirmation Service in Grasmoor MC

Monday 13th December

St Lucy

Lucy was a child from Sicily who was martyred under Diocletian. She has become a child saint who is remembered in Scandinavia countries. She is associated with the Advent message of light in darkness, hope driving out fear. The customs of giving food in memory of her are widely observed today throughout the Christian world.

Ecumenical – for ARCIC3 and the conversations between the Diocese of Carlisle and Diocese of Lancaster over the ‘Walking in the Way’ report

World Church - The Diocese of Ijumu – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Lokoja Province)

Bishop James - attending House of Bishops

Tuesday 14th December

St John of the Cross

St John was a supporter and friend of St Teresa of Avila in reforming the Carmelite Order. Kidnapped and tortured he developed a deep spirituality which found expression in 'the dark night of the soul'. John is regarded as one of the great contemplative teachers.

Ecumenical – for Ted Gannon and the Spiritual Direction and Weeks of Guided Prayer in the diocese and for new links through the Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality network

World Church - The Diocese of Ikara – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Kaduna Province)

Bishop James - speaking at Keswick Probus Club

Wednesday 15th December

Ecumenical – for all the Society of Friends and local Meeting Houses in the county

World Church – The Diocese of Ikeduru – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Owerri Province)

Bishop James - attending Trinity School AGM and Eaglesfield Paddle Christingle Service

Thursday 16th December

Ecumenical – for the spiritual direction network, for all who offer spiritual accompaniment and all who are accompanied in their journey of faith

World Church - The Diocese of Ikka – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Bendel Province)

Friday 17th December

O Sapientia

Today marks the beginning of the ancient countdown to Christmas, called the Advent O's. Today is O Holy Wisdom and these traditional eight days ends with O Come Emmanuel.

Ecumenical – for the local houses of prayer being established in the county, for local groups coming together to focus on the need for prayer

World Church - The Diocese of Ikwerre – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Niger Delta Province)

Bishop James - Bishop's Leadership Meeting at Bishop's House

Saturday 18th December

Ecumenical – for the new monastic communities represented in the county, praying for the Iona and Northumbrian community groups

World Church - The Diocese of Ikwo – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Enugu Province)

Week Fifty Theme – Children Charities
Sunday 19th December – Advent 4

Charities – for the work of the Children’s Society and for our local groups, for all those assisted by their work

Coronavirus – for those caring for sick family members and especially for all children in the county in this caring role

God for All - Pray for the Bishop’s Christmas messages in various media, for the online resources and for the national campaign.

World Church - The Church of the Province of Central Africa

Bishop James - Confirmation Service at Calder

Monday 20th December

Charities – for the work of the NSPCC and for their campaign to protect children from all forms of abuse

World Church - The Diocese of Ikwuano – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Aba Province)

Tuesday 21st December

Charities – for the work of the Barnado’s charity and for the support and family work in the community

World Church - The Diocese of Ilaje – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ondo Province)

Wednesday 22nd December

Charities – for all children’s cancer charities, for the work inspired by Helen House to provide hospice care for dying children

World Church - The Diocese of Ile - Oluji – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ondo Province)

Thursday 23rd December

Charities – for the work all international agencies working to create healthy and sustainable futures for the world’s children

World Church – The Diocese of Ilesa – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ibadan Province)

Friday 24th December

Charities – for the work of SANDS, for all who remember today especially a child who has died in past years

World Church - The Diocese of Ilesa South West – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ibadan Province)

Bishop James - Cathedral Carol Service

Saturday 25th December

Christmas Day

Today is the second holiest day of the Christian year.
We celebrate the birth of the Emmanuel, God with us.

Charities – for the work of UNICEF and its current caring for the Covid generation appeal, for all who will be supported through their work

World Church - The Diocese of North East India –
The (united) Church of North India

Bishop James – Christmas Cathedral Service

Week Fifty-one Theme – Medical Charities **Sunday 26th December – Christmas 1**

St Stephen

The first Christian martyr, St Stephen is celebrated the day after Christmas. As one of seven deacons appointed by the Apostles, Stephen is put to death for his faithful witness of the gospel.

Charities – giving thanks for the Anna Chaplaincy movement, for our Cumbria chaplaincy and for the work of the Alzheimer's Society

Coronavirus – for scientific community and for the work being done to vaccinate the world

God for All – Give thanks for all who have heard the Christmas message afresh online and through social media this Christmas.

World Church - Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America

Monday 27th December

St John the Evangelist

One of the four New Testament gospel writers, John as one of the Apostles is a great teacher of the faith. St John's Gospel has priority over the other gospels and has a special place in Christian scripture.

Charities – for the work of the British Heart Foundation and for all associated charities working to eliminate heart disease

World Church - The Diocese of Northern Indiana –
The Episcopal Church (V (5) Province)

Tuesday 28th December

The Holy Innocents

The children murdered by King Herod are remembered immediately after Christmas as a reminder of the world's cruelty in opposition to God's love.

Charities – for the national work of the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, for their pioneering treatments of children cancer and generic illnesses and for the charity that supports them.

World Church - The Diocese of Indianapolis – The Episcopal Church (V (5) Province)

Wednesday 29th December

St Thomas Becket

Archbishop Thomas who was murdered on the orders of King Henry became a saint in the days after his martyrdom and his shrine in Canterbury was the most visited in the late medieval church.

Charities – for the work of Marie Curie and Macmillan nurses, for our county's Hospice at Home and for our two hospices, for the work of all these charities and all who are helped by them.

World Church - The Diocese of Iowa – The Episcopal Church (VI (6) Province)

Thursday 30th December

Charities – for the work of Cancer Research and all other smaller cancer charities which support pioneering work in tackling different forms of cancer, for all those assisted by them

God for All - Pray for Mission Community Leaders who are apart of the Development Programme, as they meet for their second session on December 3rd.

World Church - The Diocese of Iran – The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East

Friday 31st December

Charities – for MIND and all mental health charities, pray for all seeking to help younger people and those who live by themselves, we pray for groups in the county who support local people

World Church - The Diocese of Irele - Eseodo
– The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)
(Ondo Province)

Saturday 1st January 2022

Naming of Jesus

Today we remember the story from St Luke's Gospel of the baby Jesus being brought to the Temple in Jerusalem and Simeon prophesising that he would be the light of the world.

Charities – for all local charities and all who helped by them

World Church – The Diocese of Isi mbano – The
Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Owerri
Province)

Week One Theme – New Beginnings
Sunday 2nd January 2022 – Christmas 2

St Basil the Great

St Basil is one of the Greek fathers from the fourth century, regarded as a great teacher of the faith and one of the first great theologians.

New Beginnings – we pray for this new calendar year, for the difficulties face by so many and we ask for the gifts of hope, perseverance and compassion in helping us to cope with these challenges

Coronavirus – for those seeking to help all have been isolated due to the pandemic and for our care of one another

God for All – for the ecumenical leaders seeking to our fresh vision to the churches of personal discipleship and collective mission

World Church - Province de L'Eglise Anglicane
Du Congo

Monday 3rd January

New Beginnings – for the beginning of a new working year, for those who lost jobs or businesses, for all who are under pressure in their work as a result of the pandemic

World Church - The Diocese of Isiala-Ngwa –
The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Aba Province)

Tuesday 4th January

New Beginnings – for Vision Refresh and the new strategy, for the ecumenical governance structure and the work of Mission Communities

World Church - The Diocese of Isial-Ngwa South
– The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Aba Province)

Wednesday 5th January

New Beginnings – for those who have come to faith, and for the gospel message to be presented with clarity, humility and in love

World Church - The Diocese of Isikwuato – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Aba Province)

Bishop James - attending Steering Committee

Thursday 6th January

The Feast of the Epiphany

Today the church remembers the visit of the Magi. The Orthodox celebrate this day rather than the nativity of Christ. Epiphany means God made 'manifest' in the life of Jesus.

New Beginnings – for the developing Fresh Expressions and Network Youth churches, for new fellowships which seek to be church in new ways and to plant new communities of prayer

World Church - The Diocese of Northern Izon –
The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Niger
Delta Province)

Bishop James - God for All Strategy Group

Friday 7th January

New Beginnings – for our young people returning to schools, colleges and universities, for the difficult year ahead and for the challenges faced by all educational teaching and non-teaching staff

World Church - The Diocese of Western Izon –
The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)
(Bendel Province)

Saturday 8th January

New Beginnings – for our own personal new beginnings this year, for the challenges ahead, for courage and confidence in the future

World Church - The Diocese of Jabalpur – The
(united) Church of North India

Week Two Theme – URC and Baptist Churches **Sunday 9th January – Baptism of Christ**

URC – for Brian Jolly as NW Synod Moderator, for the synod officers and the partnership in the ecumenical county

Coronavirus – for the ongoing support of those most vulnerable in our society and local neighbour support groups

God for All – for plans being made for local Lent groups and joining together to deepen our faith

World Church - Iglesia Anglicana de Chile

Bishop James - attending Evangelical Bishops Conference

Monday 10th January

URC – for the county's churches and their ministers Alastair Smeaton, and Martyn Coe

World Church - The Diocese of Jaffna – The (united) Church of South India

Tuesday 11th January

URC – for the URC General Assembly, for Kevin Watson and Alan Yates its moderators and for the leadership of the national church

World Church - The Diocese of Jalingo – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Jos Province)

Bishop James - Bishop's Leadership Meeting at Bishop's House: Licensing Service of Andrew Burgess at Sedbergh

Wednesday 12th January

Benedict Biscop

St Benedict Biscop brought Bede into the religious life and was one of the great teachers of the Celtic monastic communities. He made five visits to Rome and brought back libraries of books for his monastic foundations.

Baptists – for Andrew Dodd and his representative role on behalf of the county's Baptist chapels

World Church - The Diocese of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands – The Church in the Province of the West Indies

Bishop James - Clergy Day at Rydal Hall

Thursday 13th January

St Kentigern (Mungo)

St Mungo was forced to leave Glasgow in the sixth century and came to Cumbria founding a new community at Crossthwaite, Keswick. There are a dozen churches in the county dedicated to Kentigern showing his influence on the founding of the church.

Baptists – for the distinctive role of the county's Baptist chapel and their joint mission with local Mission Communities

World Church - The Diocese of Jebba – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)
(Kwara Province)

Bishop James - Clergy Day at Rydal Hall

Friday 14th January

Baptists – for the Baptist Union, its President Yinka Oyekan, General Secretary Lynn Green, and Baptist Assembly

World Church - The Diocese of Jerusalem – The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East

Bishop James - Clergy Day at Rydal Hall

Saturday 15th January

Baptists and URC – we remember with sadness the past splits in the church which led in 1662 to the expulsion of many Baptists and Presbyterians, we give thanks now we are together in a common witness to the gospel message

World Church - The Diocese of San Joaquin – The Episcopal Church (VIII (8) Province

Bishop James - Commissioning of Lay Ministers

Week Three Theme – Week of Prayer **Sunday 16th January – Epiphany 2**

Week of Prayer – runs from 18th to 25th January. The theme this year is chosen by Christians living in the Middle East. Each day has a prayer contributed by the Christians living in these places. Today in preparation we pray for the Palestinian Church and for all those suffering persecution.

Coronavirus – for the Cumbria Community Fund and all those groups who are supported in tackling the effects of Covid19

God for All - Pray for training for lay ministry and for local lay evangelists

World Church - The Church of England

Monday 17th January

St Antony of Egypt

Antony 'retreated' into a deserted place to live a life of prayer after the example of Jesus. Following the Edict of Milan in 313 he inspired the desert Abbas and Ammas who taught the way of prayer that came to be known as contemplation. He has inspired Augustine, Benedict, Celtic, Ignatian, Carmelite and modern forms of Christian meditation. He is one of the four Greek Fathers.

Week of Prayer – for our local preparations to mark the Week of Prayer and for all those who will lead prayers, groups and special services

World Church – The Diocese of Johannesburg – The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Bishop James - Cumbria Church Leaders Meeting at Rydal Hall

Tuesday 18th January

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2022 has been prepared by the churches of the Middle East, the history of which was, and still is, characterised by conflict and strife, tainted with blood and darkened by injustice and oppression. The Christians of the Middle East offer these resources conscious that the world shares many of the travails and much of the difficulties that it experiences, and yearns for a light to lead the way to the Saviour who is the light that overcomes darkness.

Week of Prayer – Lord God, illumine our path by the light of Christ who moves before us and leads us. Enlighten us and dwell within us. Guide us to discover a small manger in our hearts where a great light still sleeps. Creator of light, we thank you for the gift of that unfading Star, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. May he be a beacon for our pilgrimage. Heal our divisions and draw us closer to the Light that we may find our unity in him. Amen.

World Church – The Diocese of Jos – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Jos Province)

Wednesday 19th January

Week of Prayer – God, our only refuge and strength, we glorify you for you are a just and righteous God. We confess before you that we often covet worldly models of leadership. Help us to seek our Lord Jesus Christ not in the palaces of the powerful but in the humble manger and to emulate him in his meekness. Encourage us to empty ourselves as we serve each other in obedience to you. We pray in the name of Christ who with you and with the Holy Spirit reigns forever in glory. Amen

World Church – The Diocese of Juba – The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

Bishop James - attending the Diocesan Board of Finance in Church House: Licensing Service of Martin Walker at Greystoke

Thursday 20th January

Week of Prayer – O Lord, you have guided us out of darkness to Jesus. You have illumined the star of hope in our lives. Help us to be united in our commitment to bring about your Reign of love, justice and peace and so to be the light of hope to all those living in the darkness of despair and disillusionment. Take our hand, Lord, so we can see you in our daily lives. As we follow you, remove our fear and anxiety. Shine your light upon us and set our hearts on fire so that your love surrounds us with warmth. Lift us up to you, you who have emptied yourself for our sake, so that our lives may glorify you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

World Church – The Diocese of Kabba – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Lokoja Province)

Bishop James - attending Deliverance Ministry Conference

Friday 21st January

Week of Prayer – Good Shepherd, the fragmentation of the little flock grieves your Holy Spirit. Forgive our weak efforts and slowness in the pursuit of your will. Give us wise shepherds after your own heart who recognise the sin of division, and who will lead the churches with righteousness and holiness, to unity in you. We ask you, Lord, to hear our prayer. Amen

World Church – The Diocese of Kadugli & Nuba Mountains – Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan

Bishop James - Bishop's Council Residential at Rydal Hall

Saturday 22nd January

Week of Prayer – O Lord God our Father, you sent the star to lead the Magi to your only begotten Son. Increase our hope in you and let us know at all times that you are walking with us, watching over your people. Teach us to follow the guidance of your Holy Spirit, however strange the path may seem, so that we may be led to our unity in Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Open our eyes to your Spirit, and encourage us in our faith, so that we may confess that Jesus is Lord, and worship and rejoice in him as the Magi did in Bethlehem.

We ask you these blessings in the name of your Son
Jesus Christ. Amen.

World Church – The Diocese of Kaduna – The Church
of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Kaduna Province)

Bishop James - Bishop's Council Residential at Rydal
Hall

Week Four Theme – Week of Prayer & Salvation Army

Sunday 23rd January – Epiphany 3

Week of Prayer – Compassionate God, you gave the blind the insight to recognise you as their Saviour, enable us to repent. In your mercy, remove the scales from our eyes and lead us to worship you as our God and Redeemer. In the midst of our sorrow and despite the depth of our sins, give us the capacity to love you with all our hearts. May we journey together guided by your light, with one heart and one mind, as were the very first disciples. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be upon us, so that together we glorify you in the Spirit's fellowship, and witness to all those around us. Amen.

Coronavirus – for the suffering from Long Covid, for all who have been bereaved and all who are suffering from mental health issues as a result of the lockdowns

God for All - Pray for the work going into establishing of Emmanuel Theological College – for all students and staff especially for Paul Dunthorne.

World Church - Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

Bishop James - Confirmation Service at Irthing, Gelt and Eden Mission Community

Monday 24th January

Week of Prayer – All praise, glory and thanksgiving to you, O God. You have revealed yourself in the epiphany of your Son both to those who have long awaited your

coming, and to those who were not expecting you. You know the suffering that surrounds us, the pain caused by our divisions. You see the world struggling and the deteriorating situation in the Middle East today – the place where you chose to be born, which was sanctified by your presence. We ask you to enable our hearts and our minds to know you. As we join the wise men coming from afar, we pray that you open our hearts to your love and to the love of our brothers and sisters around us. Give us the will and the means to work towards the transformation of this world and to offer each other gifts that may nurture our communion. Grant us your endless gifts and blessings. Receive our prayer in the name of your Son Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen

World Church – The Diocese of Kafanchan –The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Abuja Province)

Tuesday 25th January

Conversion of St Paul

Saul conversion is recorded in Acts 9, he became known as St Paul and through his letters shaped the emerging church, one of the founders of our church.

Week of Prayer - Gracious God, when we only know one way and we think we must return to it, and when we think that all roads are blocked, and we fall into despair, we always find you there. You are the God of renewed promises. We find you creating a new path before us, one that we did not expect. We thank you because you exceed our expectations. We thank you for your wisdom that surpasses our understanding. We thank you

because your creative paths open up unforeseen possibilities. If we search our maps and find no route, nonetheless we always find you, who lead us by a yet more excellent way. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, that you will always lead us back to you. Amen.

Salvation Army – for David Taylor and the leadership of the Salvation Army in the north west, for their commitment to the poor and those most in need

World Church - The Diocese of Kagera – The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Bishop James - Women Clergy's Lunch at Bishop's House

Wednesday 26th January

St Timothy and St Titus

Companions of St Paul and recipients of letters named after them. St Paul's advice to them, teaches us all how to be Christ's disciples in our daily lives.

Salvation Army – for the Salvation Army churches in Cumbria and their leaders, at Barrow, Carlisle, Kendal, Penrith, Workington and Whitehaven

World Church – The Diocese of Kajiado – The Anglican Church of Kenya

Bishop James - College of Bishops Meeting

Thursday 27th January

Salvation Army – we pray for those assisted and supported by this year’s Winter Appeal, we give thanks for the practical love and care shown to so many who are neglected by our society.

World Church - The Diocese of Kajo-Keji – The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (Central Equatoria Province)

Bishop James - Good Shepherd MAT: Meeting of North West Bishops

Friday 28th January

St Thomas Aquinas

St Thomas was a Dominican living in the thirteenth century regarded as one of the greatest theologians of the church. His influence on the development of Christian doctrine has been immense.

Salvation Army – we give thanks for the vision of the Salvation Army’s founder William Booth and remember with sadness that his vision was not embraced by the Church, but we give thanks that together we now witness to the common mission of the gospel.

World Church – The Diocese of Kamango – Province de L’Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

Saturday 29th January

Salvation Army – we give thanks for the Salvation Army’s key role is helping those who are rescued from modern slavery, supporting the victims in their moment

of need and assisting them in building a life for themselves free exploitation

World Church - The Diocese of Kampala – The Church of the Province of Uganda

Vision Prayer

Living Lord, as we offer to you our common life,
refresh our vision that we may know your will
and seek to follow in all your ways.

May we **follow daily** as your disciples,
care deeply for one another in community,
speak boldly your gospel word of love,
and **tread gently** as faithful stewards of your goodness.
We ask this in the power of your holy name,
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer
of our lives, today and for ever. **Amen**