Cumbria Prayer Diary



DECEMBER 2024

& JANUARY 2025

*Praying with our fellow Christians in Cumbria, together with our link dioceses of*

*Northern Argentina, Stavanger and Zululand*

*For full information of the Anglican Communion please visit* [*https://www.anglicancommunion.org/resources/cycle-of-prayer.aspx*](https://www.anglicancommunion.org/resources/cycle-of-prayer.aspx)

If you wish to have a physical copy sent to you, please let Sarah Marshall-Ellison know via email Sarah.Marshall-Ellison@carlislediocese.org.uk

**At the end of the prayer diary are prayers for Peace in Ukraine, Israel and Gaza and the Vision Prayer.**

**Theme – Ecumenical**

**Sunday 1st December – Advent Sunday**

*Ecumenical –* give thanks for the eighth anniversary of the signing of the ecumenical covenant, and the thirteenth anniversary of Cumbria as an ecumenical county. For our partner and companion denominations. For the developing sense of our common mission.

*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 over this season of Advent.

*World Church* - Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

**Monday 2nd December**

*Ecumenical –* for all church leaders: Clare Downing and the URC NW Synod; Bishop Rob and the Carlisle Diocese; James Tebbutt and the NW Methodist District; Bishop Paul and the Lancaster Catholic Diocese; David Taylor and the Salvation Army; and for those who act as co-ordinators for other churches and Baptist chapels; Bill Bewley, Phil Jump and Wes Brandon together with independent church fellowships.

*World Church -* The Diocese of Kitale – The Anglican Church of Kenya

**Tuesday 3rd December**

*Ecumenical –* for Churches Together in Cumbria and the board of trustees

*World Church -* The Diocese of Kiteto – The Anglican Church of Tanzania

*Bishop Rob* – Chapter Day with Barrow and Furness Deanery Chapters at Rydal Hall

**Wednesday 4th December**

*Ecumenical –* for those who are part of the ecumenical governance of the county and the Denominational Ecumenical Officers (DEOs) for each denomination.

*World Church -* The Diocese of Kitgum – The Church of the Province of Uganda

**Thursday 5th 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 followers of Jesus.

*World Church* - The Diocese of Kitui – The Anglican Church of Kenya

**Friday 6th December**

**St Nicholas**

The 4th century Bishop Nicholas of Myra is 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 national ecumenical structures of each denomination and for the work of Churches Together in England and its General Secretary Bishop Mike Royal.

*World Church* - The Diocese of Kivu – Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda

**Saturday 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 the World Council of Churches and our brothers and sisters in countries across the world.

*World Church* - The Diocese of North Kivu – Province de L’Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

**Theme – Advent**

**Sunday 8th December – Advent 2**

*Advent –* pray that our hearts would be prepared for the coming of Jesus into the world and our thoughts focused on the true meaning of Christmas.

*God for All -* pray for the planning for *Follow the Star: Calm and Bright* and all those participating in the Church of England’s Christmas campaign.

*World Church* - Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan

**Monday 9th December**

*Advent -* pray for all schools in the county holding carol services in December

*World Church* - The Diocese of Kobe – The Nippon Sei Ko Kai

**Tuesday 10th December**

*Advent –* pray for those who are homeless at this time and the agencies that support them

*World Church* - The Diocese of Koforidua – The Church of the Province of West Africa

*Bishop Rob* – House of Bishops and BLT Pastoral meeting

**Wednesday 11th December**

*Advent* – pray for those who are lonely and isolated in our communities and for those that support them

*World Church -* The Diocese of Kolhapur – The Church of North India (United)

**Thursday 12th December**

*Advent* – pray for those who are bereaved for whom Christmas time is particularly difficult as they miss and mourn their loved ones.

*World Church -* The Diocese of Kollam – Kottarakkara – The Church of South India (United)

**Friday 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.

*Advent* – pray for those who are displaced or separated from loved ones at this time by war or conflict

*World Church* - The Diocese of Kondoa – The Anglican Church of Tanzania

**Saturday 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.

*Advent* – pray for opportunities to share the message of Christmas with our friends and family

*World Church* - The Diocese of Kongor – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

**Theme – Ecumenical**

**Sunday 15th December – Advent 3**

*Ecumenical –* for Bishop Paul Swarbrick and the Catholic parishes and priests of the county

*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 Anglican Church of Tanzania

**Monday 16th December**

*Ecumenical -* for the Sisters at Boarbank Hall at Allithwaite and their care for those in need

*World Church* - The Diocese of Kongor – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

*Bishop Rob* – BLT meeting and Trinity School Carol Service in the Cathedral

**Tuesday 17th December**

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

*World Church* - The Diocese of Kontagora – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

**Wednesday 18th 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 Kootenay – The Anglican Church of Canada

**Thursday 19th December**

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

*World Church -* The Diocese of Eastern Kowloon – Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

**Friday 20th December**

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

*World Church -* The Diocese of Western Kowloon – Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

**Saturday 21st December**

*Ecumenical* – for the work of the Cumbria Ecumenical Spirituality Network

*World Church -* The Diocese of Krishna-Godavari – The Church of South India (United)

**Theme – Charities**

**Sunday 22nd December – Advent 4**

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

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

*World Church –* The Church of the Province of Uganda

**Monday 23rd December**

*Charities* – for the work of UNICEF and for all who will be supported through their work.

*World Church -* The Diocese of Kubwa – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

**Tuesday 24th December**

*Charities –* give thanks for the Anna Chaplaincy movement, for our Cumbria chaplaincy and for the work of the Alzheimer’s Society

*World Church -* The Diocese of Kuching – Church of the Province of South East Asia

*Bishop Rob* – Cathedral Carol Service

**Wednesday 25th December**

**Christmas Day**

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

*Peace* – today we pray for peace in the world, for an end to all violence and for communities to respect one another and seek a common way forward.

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

*World Church -* The Diocese of Kumasi – The Church of the Province of West Africa

*Bishop Rob –* Cathedral Eucharist Service

**Thursday 26th December**

**St Stephen**

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

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

*World Church -* The Diocese of Kumi – The Church of the Province of Uganda

**Friday 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 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 Kurunegala – The Church of Ceylon (Extra Provincial)

**Saturday 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 work of Cancer Research and all other smaller cancer charities which support pioneering work in tackling different forms of cancer and for all those assisted by them

*World Church* - The Diocese of Kushtia – The Church of Bangladesh

**Week One Theme – Methodist Church and Charities**

**Sunday 29th December – 1st Sunday of Christmas**

**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.

*Methodists –* pray for Revd Dr James Tebbutt, District Chair of the NW England Methodist District

*World Church* - The Episcopal Church

**Monday 30th December**

*Ecumenical –* for the District’s ordained and lay ministers, employees and volunteers and the churches locally

*World Church* - The Diocese of Kutgi – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

**Tuesday 31st December**

*Ecumenical –* for the work of Julie Paterson as District Safeguarding Officer (Cumbria) and for close working between all the denominations of the ecumenical county in this important area of responsibility

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

**Wednesday 1st January**

**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.

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

*World Church* - The Diocese of Kwoi – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

**Thursday 2nd January**

**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.

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

*World Church -* The Diocese of Kyoto – The Nippon Sei Ko Kai

**Friday 3rd January**

*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 Kyushu – The Nippon Sei Ko Kai

**Saturday 4th January**

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

*World Church -* The Diocese of Lafia – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

**Week Two Theme – New Beginnings**

**Sunday 5th January – 2nd Sunday of Christmas**

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

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

*World Church* - The Church in Wales

*Bishop Rob* – attending Evangelical Bishops retreat in Solihull

**Monday 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 new God for All initiatives and the work of Mission Communities

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

*Bishop Rob* – attending Evangelical Bishops retreat in Solihull

**Tuesday 7th January**

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

*World Church* - The Diocese of Lagos Mainland – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

*Bishop Rob* – Steering Committee

**Wednesday 8th January**

*New Beginnings* – for the beginning of a new working year, for those who lost jobs or businesses in 2024, for all who are under pressure in their work. For new hope in 2025 and easing of financial pressures on families.

*World Church* - The Diocese of Lagos West – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

**Thursday 9th 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 Lahore – The Church of Pakistan (United)

*Bishop Rob* – hosting the Ordinands’ supper in Kendal

**Friday 10th January**

*New Beginnings –* for 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 Lainya – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

**Saturday 11th 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 on the Lake – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

**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**

**Prayer for Peace in Ukraine**

Lord Jesus you are the Prince of Peace,

look upon our divided world

to be with those who are victims of violence.

We pray for the people of Ukraine

and all who have been subjected to the cruelty of others.

Help us to know the gift of your peace

in the power of your Spirit and we ask you to soften the hearts of those who can stop the fighting.

Creator God we ask for your aid as your children of light

living in the darkness of our world. Amen

**Prayer for Peace in the Israel-Gaza conflict**

O God of all hope and peace, we bring to you the needs of our broken and hurting world.
Our hearts are breaking with images of lives lost and torn apart by grief in Israel and Palestine.
We pray for an end to violence and warfare so that the challenging work of rebuilding may begin.
Help us, O Lord, to affirm our common humanity so that in our differences we may build together for justice and peace.
In Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.