

Cumbria Prayer Diary



Follow Daily **Care Deeply**
Speak Boldly **Tread Gently**

**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>

If you wish to have a physical copy sent to you, please let Sarah Marshall-Ellison know via email
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**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 Kondoia – 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.