

# Cumbria Prayer Diary



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

## **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  
Sarah.Marshall-Ellison@carlisle-diocese.org.uk

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

**Week Two Theme – New Beginnings**  
**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> January**

*New Beginnings* – for our young people returning to schools, colleges and universities 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 8<sup>th</sup> January**

*New Beginnings* – for the beginning of a new working year, for those who lost jobs or businesses in 2024 and for all who feel under pressure in their work

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

## **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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)

### **Week Three Theme – URC and Baptist Churches Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Epiphany**

#### **Benedict Biscop**

St Benedict Biscop brought Bede into the religious life and was one of the great teachers of the Celtic monastic communities.

*URC* – for NW Synod Moderator Clare Downing, for the synod officers and partnership in the ecumenical county

*World Church* - The Church of the Province of W. Africa

*Bishop Rob* – Confirmation service at St James, Barrow

### **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January**

#### **St Kentigern (Mungo)**

St Mungo was forced to leave Glasgow in the sixth century and came to Cumbria founding a new

community at Crosthwaite, Keswick. There are a dozen churches in the county dedicated to Kentigern showing his influence on the founding of the church.

*URC* – for the county’s churches and their ministers  
Martyn Coe, Alistair Smeaton, Lisa Wilson and Kate Hunt

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

*Bishop Rob* – BLT meeting

## **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January**

*URC* – for the URC General Assembly, for its moderator Timothy Meadows and for the leadership of the national church

*World Church* - The Diocese of West Lango – The Church of the Province of Uganda

*Bishop Rob* – licensing of Olivia Haines at Windermere

## **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

*Baptists* – for Phil Jump as Regional Minister, Team Leader for the NW Baptist Association

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

*Bishop Rob* – Penrith Deanery Chapter Day at Rydal Hall

## **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January**

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

*World Church* - The Diocese of Lebombo – Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola

## **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

*Baptists* – for the Baptist Union, its President Steve Finamore, General Secretary Lynn Green, and the Baptist Assembly

*World Church* - The Diocese of Leeds – The Church of England

*Bishop Rob* – Bishop's Council Residential

## **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 Leicester – The Church of England

*Bishop Rob* – Bishop’s Council Residential

**Week Four Theme – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**  
**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany**

*Week of Prayer* – the annual Week of Prayer (18<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> January) is an international ecumenical celebration. This year’s worship for the week has at its heart, the Nicene Creed.

*God for All* - pray for training for lay ministry and for local lay evangelists.

*World Church* - The Church in the Province of the West Indies

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January**

*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 Lesotho – The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

*Bishop Rob* – House of Bishops meeting and Clergy Days at Rydal Hall



## **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January**

*Week of prayer* - for ecumenical groups meeting this coming week, for sharing and new fellowships

*World Church* - The Diocese of Lexington – The Episcopal Church

*Bishop Rob* – Clergy Days at Rydal Hall

## **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

*Week of Prayer* – for prayer services marking this Week of Prayer

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

*Bishop Rob* – Clergy Days at Rydal Hall

## **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**

*Week of Prayer* - for shared children's groups and for closer working together

*World Church* - The Diocese of Lichfield – The Church of England

*Bishop Rob* – BLT Pastoral Meeting

## **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January**

*Week of Prayer* – for following Jesus each and every day as fellow Christians witnessing to the faith in every moment of our lives

*World Church* - The Diocese of Lincoln – The Church of England

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

**Conversion of St Paul**

Saul's conversion is recorded in Acts 9. He became known as St Paul and through his letters shaped the emerging church.

*Week of Prayer* - for our mutual care and respect for creation, for the movement to create eco-churches

*World Church* - The Diocese of Litoral Ecuador – The Episcopal Church

**Week Five Theme – Carlisle Deanery**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany**

**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.

*Deanery* - pray for the Mission Communities across the Deanery: Carlisle Rural, The Two Rivers Mission Community, Carlisle South, Heart of the Centre and St John's London Road & Houghton & Kingmoor

*World Church* - The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria

*Bishop Rob* – service at St Elisabeth's Harraby

## **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January**

*Deanery* - pray for the Rural Dean, Rev Simon Bickersteth, Assistant Rural Dean, Revd Eileen Reid, and Lay Chair, Tony Newgarth.

*World Church* - The Diocese of Liverpool – The Church of England

*Bishop Rob* – NW Bishops meeting

## **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

*Deanery* - pray for Samuel and Karla Coswig, as they head up the work of Carlisle Network Youth Church, and the church revitalisation scheme taking place at St Luke's.

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

*Bishop Rob* – College of Bishops

## **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January**

*Deanery* - pray for the work of the Restore network of shops in Carlisle. Pray for Chris Harwood and Garry Ion who lead the work of the Community Shed, particularly as they look for a new location for the community shed.

*World Church* - The Diocese of Llandaff – The Church in Wales

*Bishop Rob* – College of Bishops

### **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January**

*Deanery* - pray for the Revd Nina Orchard and the team working to revitalise St Luke's Morton.

*World Church* - Missionary Area of Lodwar – The Anglican Church of Kenya

*Bishop Rob* – Diocesan Safeguarding meeting and DBE meeting

### **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January**

*Deanery* - pray that God will provide the people and resources to enable the church to grow, and for churches to have a renewed excitement and passion for mission and outreach. Pray for vacancies within the Deanery to be filled.

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

### **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February**

*Deanery* - pray for a successful Diocesan DIP bid, which would help release additional funding to support church planting and revitalisation in Carlisle. Pray for discussions about the future shape of the Deanery.

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

*Bishop Rob* – Mothers' Union commissioning service in  
Kendal and speaking at Young Vocations Day at  
Rheged

### **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.