

Sunday 24th – Sunday 31st

We pray for all those who will be alone this Christmas, all those who do not have anywhere to lay their head, and all those for whom Christmas is a difficult time. We pray that they would know they are not alone, that you are their refuge, a very present help in times of trouble, and that you love them.

24. On Christmas Eve, we remember the great love and humility you displayed in coming down to earth in the form of a baby, to make your dwelling among us: 'They will call him Immanuel which means "God with us"' (*Matthew 1:23*)

25. On Christmas Day, we celebrate the birth of our saviour, Jesus Christ who has rescued and redeemed us. O come let us adore him, for he alone is worthy! We give thanks for our friends and families, and we pray for rest and reconciliation, comfort and joy.

26. On St Stephen's Day we remember the first martyr, who before his death gazed steadfastly into heaven and saw the glory of God, and who prayed for the forgiveness of those who killed him (*Acts 7:54-59*). Lord, please strengthen us in our suffering, teach us to love our enemies, and help us to faithfully bear witness to your name.

27. On the Feast Day of St John the Evangelist, we give thanks for his Gospel, written so that we may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, and by believing have life in his name (*John 20:31*). We pray that through his writings we would deeply know this truth and share it with others, that they may believe as well.

28. For the Devonport Mission Community, its clergy Tim Buckley, Sue Nicholas, Ruth Sayers, LLMs Lynda Buckley, John Wright, and for all who live and worship in Devonport.

29. For the Dunkeswell Mission Community, its clergy Nigel Candelent, Jane Penn, and for all who live and worship in Upottery, Sheldon, Plymtree, Luppitt, Dunkeswell, and Broadhembury.

30. For the East Clyst Churches Mission Community, its clergy Marc Kerslake, Jon Holder, Gudrun Thomas, Rich Brooks, Rachel Dunn, LLMs Sandra Parker, Ian Spicer, Robert Brierley, Jude Carter, Mary Franklin, and for all who live and worship in Whimble, Talaton, Sowton, Rockbeare, Clyst St Lawrence, Clyst Hydon, Clyst Honiton, and Broadclyst.

31. On New Year's Eve, we remember all that has taken place this year, and amidst the trials and difficulties, we give thanks for every blessing, knowing that God works all things for the good of those who love him. May we enter the New Year holding fast to the hope we have in Jesus.

Lord, help us remember why we celebrate at Christmas, because a child was born, your son Jesus, whom you sent into the world to redeem it. Advent is a season of waiting, just as your people awaited the Prince of Peace, help us to pray earnestly, as we await the day when He will come again. Amen.



DECEMBER PRAYER DIARY

Friday 1st – Saturday 9th

As we gather to 'Come and Pray' this week on the Diocesan Day of Prayer, we thank you that you hear our prayers. May we bring all of our concerns before you in prayer: 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.' (*Philippians 4:6*)

1. For the Buckland Monachorum Mission Community, its clergy Andy Bowden, Andrew Farmer, LLMs Angela Smith, Paul Nixon, Mark Smith, Philip Tuckett, and for all who live and worship in Buckland Monachorum.

2. As we 'Come and Pray' together today at Exeter Cathedral, may we grow in unity, becoming more aware of our dependence on you, and desiring your will to be done. May those attending who don't know you have open hearts to seek you in prayer.

3. On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we pray for all people with any form of disability. We pray that the church would be a place of accessibility and inclusion. Lord, help us grow in understanding and compassion.

4. For the Central Exeter Mission Community, its priest Sheila Swarbrick, and for all who live and worship in Central Exeter.

5. On International Volunteers Day, we thank God for all volunteers in churches across Devon. We pray that we would all be inspired to serve others: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (*1 Peter 4:10*)

6. On St Nicholas Day, we remember your servant Nicholas whose legacy is one of generosity. Lord, help us to give freely, just as we have freely received, and help us to be mindful of those in need that we might love others as you have loved us, Jesus.

7. For the Chudleigh Mission Community, its priest Alex Sharp, LLMs Yasmin Mann, Helen Harding, Sheila Fletcher, and for all who live and worship in Trusham, Chudleigh Knighton, and Chudleigh.

8. For the Coast & Combe Mission Community, its clergy Mark Ruoff, John Roles, Susan Oldham, Fran Allison, Ann Lewis, Tandy Ruoff, LLMs Theresa Powell, Sally-Ann Molligoda, Dave Richards, and for all who live and worship in Woolacombe, Lee, Mortehoe, Ilfracombe, Combe Martin, Bittadon, and Berrynarbor.

9. On International Anti-Corruption Day, we pray for all nations where people are hungry, sick, homeless or defenceless because of corruption. We thank you that you are a just God and we pray for leaders who would recognise the evil of corruption and seek justice for all people.

Sunday 10th – Saturday 16th

We pray for our churches during Advent, for their events and services. Lord, may your church be a place of support, provision and hope this Christmas. We also pray for all those attending a church service or event for the first time this Christmas, may they not only feel welcome, but encounter you and know your love for them.

10. On International Human Rights Day, we pray for all those around the world whose human rights are ignored or violated. Help us build a society built on the knowledge that every person is made in God's image.

11. For the Coast and Country Mission Community, its priest Matthew Gorton, LLMs Peter Barker, Jenny Harris, Lyn Robinson, Frank Robinson and for all who live and worship in Strete, Stoke Fleming, East Allington, and Blackawton.

12. In our link with Bayeux-Lisieux, we pray for the Cathedral at Bayeux, and its welcome to all visitors particularly during the Christmas season. We also pray for parishes, their clergy and people in the area of Bayeux.

13. For the Crediton Mission Community, its clergy Matthew Tregenza, Lewis Eden, Janet May, Sandra Collier, LLMs Carol Price, Jack Shelley, Antonia Tregenza, and for all who live and worship in Shobrooke, Sandford with Upton Hellions, and Crediton.

14. For the Cullompton Mission Community, its clergy Edward Hobbs, Marilyn Sanders, and for all who live and worship in Cullompton.

15. In our link with Cyprus and the Gulf, we pray for the Cathedral of St Paul, Nicosia and the Dean of the Cathedral, Jeremy Crocker.

16. For the Culm Valley Mission Community, LLMs Katharyn Mumby, Chris Russell, and for all who live and worship in Willand, Uffculme, and Kentisbeare.

Sunday 17th – Saturday 23rd

As schools break up for the Christmas holidays, we pray for staff and students, that this would be a time of rest and restoration. We also pray for families severely impacted by the cost-of-living crisis, we pray for your provision and your peace this winter.

17. In our link with Melanesia, we pray for the brothers and Sisters of the four Anglican Religious orders in Melanesia as they go out on their Christmas missions across the Pacific. We pray for calm seas and open hearts and minds to receive the Good News of the birth of Christ.

18. On International Migrants Day, we give thanks for organisations supporting those who have left their homes and come to our shores. Give us compassion and care to our global neighbours.

19. For the Dart and Avon Mission Community, its clergy Gina Radford, Laura McAdam, LLMs Jenny Holton, David Harwood, and for all who live and worship in Staverton with Landscope, South Brent, Rattery, Littlehempston, Dean Prior, and Buckfastleigh.

20. On International Human Solidarity Day, we celebrate our diversity and pray for unity amongst all God's children across the globe. We pray that divisions would fall away and that all people would be united in Jesus Christ.

21. For the Dartmouth & Dittisham Mission Community, its priest Andrew Langley, LLM David Woods, and for all who live and worship in Dittisham and Dartmouth St Clement (Townstal).

22. In our link with Thika, we pray for The Cathedral Archdeaconry, their Archdeacon Joyce Kabuba, and all of the clergy and people who live and worship in the Archdeaconry.

23. For the Dawlish Coast Mission Community, its priest Patrick Parks and for the arrival of their new Team Rector Linda Cronin, LLMs Will Halse, Margaret Noel, and for all who live and worship in Starcross, Dawlish with Holcombe, and Cofton.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

ISAIAH 9:6