DECEMBER PRAYER DIARY

Reflecting on the words of Matthew 1:21, we pray:

Lord, we give thanks for the most incredible gift we could have been given, Jesus. We remember the sacrifice of your one and only Son, who you sent to save people from their sins. During Advent, help us to fix our eyes on Jesus and give thanks for all he has done for us. Amen.

We encourage you to reflect on this passage throughout this month and use it to guide your prayer time.

Tuesday 1st – Saturday 5th

On National Grief Awareness week, we pray that you would bring comfort and peace to those who are struggling with loss. Help us to weep with those who weep. We remember the words of Psalm 34:18, 'The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in Spirit.'

1. On National Giving Day, we pray that our churches will reflect God's abundant love and generosity through a warm, personal welcome. We pray for generous giving to help support the church's mission and help people to discover faith. We give thanks for generosity.

2. During Advent, we pray for Christmas services and events for pupils from local schools. We pray that they will spark wonder, open young people's eyes to faith and strengthen relationships between churches, schools and families.

3. On 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. During Advent, we pray that church Christmas services will inspire people to discover more about Jesus and faith in him. We pray that our churches will offer clear signposts and simple next steps for those exploring faith and church life.

5. On International Day of Volunteers, we thank God for all who volunteer in churches across Devon. We thank you for their servant hearts, and we pray that we would all be inspired to serve others.

Sunday 6th – Saturday 12th

We pray for churches across Devon that are holding events and services during Advent. Lord, we pray that your church will be a place of support and hope this Christmas. We pray that anyone who attends a church service or event for the first time this Christmas would feel a warm welcome, and they would know your love and peace.

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 churches of the Seaton and Beer Coastal Mission Community, their clergy Justin Montague, Shuna George-Pritchard, LLM Lesley Gubbins, and for all who live and worship in Seaton and Beer. For pupils, teachers and staff at Beer CofE School.

8. For the churches of the Shirwell Mission Community, their clergy Katie Welborn van Santen, and for all who live and worship in Shirwell, Loxhore, Kentisbury, East Down with Arlington, Challacombe, and Bratton Fleming with Stoke Rivers.

9. We pray for the religious orders in Melanesia as they travel on their Christmas missions. Grant them calm seas and safe journeys and prepare hearts and communities to receive them with warmth, joy and hospitality. May their witness bring hope, peace and the light of Christ to all whom they meet.

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 parishes of the Sid Valley Mission Community. For All Saints Sidmouth and Salcombe Regis and their clergy David Caporn and Sarah Rock-Evans; For Sidmouth Parish Church and their clergy Victoria Chester and for the parishes of Woolbrook and Sidbury with Sidford and their clergy Laura Selman. For the LLMs Carole Hawkins, Peter Scott, Peter Byrd, Alan Aspray, John Dunster, Carolyn Croft, and for all who live and worship across the Sid Valley. For pupils, teachers and staff at Sidmouth CofE School and Sidbury CofE School.

12. For the churches of the South Molton Mission Community, David Sayle, LLM Deborah Bayliss, and for all who live and worship in Warkleigh with Satterleigh, South Molton with Nymet Saint George, Kingsnympton, Filleigh, Chittlehampton with Umberleigh, and Chittlehamholt. For pupils, teachers and staff at South Molton United CofE School.

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Sunday 13th – Saturday 19th

As schools begin to break up for the Christmas holidays, we pray that this break would be a time of rest and restoration for both pupils and staff. We give thanks for churches across Devon that will be hosting activities over Christmas and pray that children and young people attending would grow to know you more.

13. For the churches of the South Dartmoor Mission Community, their clergy Phil Dykes and for all who live and worship in Sparkwell, Ivybridge, Harford, and Cornwood. For pupils, teachers and staff at Cornwood CofE School.

14. For the churches of the South Tamar Mission Community, their clergy Gill George, LLM Richard Searight, and for all who live and worship in Milton Abbot with Dunterton, Marystowe Lamerton with Sydenham Damerel, and Coryton.

15. For the churches of the St Thomas Mission Community, their clergy Hannah Alderson, and for all who live and worship in the parish.

16. For the churches of the Start Bay Mission Community, their clergy Mark Neave, LLMs Andy McMullin, Ken Ball, Sarah Pain, and for all who live and worship in South Pool, Slapton, East Portlemouth, Chivelstone, and Charleton, Buckland-Tout-Saints. For pupils, teachers and staff at Charleton CofE School.

17. In our link with Thika, we pray for The Cathedral Archdeaconry, and all clergy and people who live and worship in the Archdeaconry.

18. For the churches of the Tamerton Foliot and Southway Mission Community, their clergy Gerda van Ommeren, LLM Carrie Tucker, and for all who live and worship in Tamerton Foliot, and Southway. For pupils, teachers and staff at Mary Dean's CofE School.

19. For the churches of the Tavistock Area Mission Community, their clergy Matt Godfrey, Nick Law, Judith Blowey, Karen Sharland, LLMs Bob Owens, Wendy Roderick Hake, Anne Palfrey, Patti Owens, Liz Bastin, Amanda Harris, Sheila Gay, Susan Belfield, Christopher Pancheri, and for all who live and worship in Whitchurch, Tavistock, Peter Tavy, Mary Tavy, Gulworthy, Brent Tor, and Bere Ferrers with Bere Alston.



Sunday 20th – Saturday 26th

We remember and pray for those who find Christmas time a difficult time of year, and for those who are alone during the festive season. We ask that you would fill them with peace, and that you would remind them that you are with them and love them unconditionally. We pray that they would feel comfort during this time.

20. For the churches of the Teign Valley and Haldon Hill Mission Community, their clergy Ruth Frampton and Amanda Drake, and for all who live and worship in Dunsford, Dunchideock, Doddiscombsleigh, Christow, Bridford, and Ashton.

21. In our link with the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, we pray for Bishop Sean as he travels around the countries of the Diocese, and for all clergy and lay ministers leading congregations through Advent and preparing for the celebration of Christmas.

22. For the churches of the Teignhead Mission Community, their clergy Osaro Omobude, LLM Ruth Bettesworth, Hugh McCormick, and for all who live and worship in Stokeinteignhead, Haccombe, and Combeinteignhead.

23. For the churches of the Three Rivers Mission Community, and for all who live and worship in Ugborough, Saint Peter Harbertonford, Moreleigh, Halwell, Ermington, and Diptford with North Huish. For pupils, teachers and staff at Diptford CofE School and Harbertonford CofE School.

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. We give thanks for this day, and we pray for rest and reconciliation, comfort and joy. O come let us adore him, for he alone is worthy!

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 and pain, teach us to love our enemies, and help us to faithfully bear witness to your name.

DIOCESE OF EXETER
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN DEVON

Information included in this prayer diary is taken from the diocesan database where clergy and Licenced Lay Ministers (LLMs) have given permission to use details which are accurate at the time of publication. If there are any changes please email: operations@exeter.anglican.org

Sunday 27th – Thursday 31st

As we come to the end of 2026, we give thanks for the past year. However our year has looked, we use this as an opportunity to draw near to you Lord. As we look to 2027, we remember the words of Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

27. For the churches of the Three Wells Mission Community, their clergy Michael Wilkie, LLM Ian Firth, and for all who live and worship in Kingskerswell with Coffinswell, and Abbotskerswell. For pupils, teachers and staff at Kingskerswell CofE School.

28. 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.

29. For the churches of the Tiverton Mission Community, their clergy Andy Humm, Christian Hill, Miriam Brandon-Wheeler, Sue Roberts, LLM Jude Taylor, and for all who live and worship in Tiverton, Saint George and Saint Paul, Tiverton St Andrew, Saint Peter Tiverton, and Chevithorne with Cove.

30. For the churches of the Topsham Mission Community, their clergy Louise Grace, and for all who live and worship in Wear, and Topsham.

31. On New Year's Eve, we remember all that has taken place this year. We give thanks for every blessing, knowing that God works all things for the good of those who love him. We pray for those who have had a challenging year, and ask that you would restore them and give them strength. May we enter the New Year with our eyes fixed on Jesus Christ.

Amen.