

Sun 25th – Sat 31st January

‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ Acts 20:35. Think this week about those people you know who may need to receive a comforting or encouraging word or gesture. Bring them to God in prayer.

25. Pray for the Alphington Mission Community. Their clergy Stephen Bessent and Mark Nightingale, their reader Lesley Phillips-Cannon and the congregations of St George, Shillingford St George, St Ida, Ide and St. Michael & All Angels, Alphington.

26. Remember in prayer our Acting Archdeacons the Ven Mike Edson in Barnstaple Archdeaconry and the Ven Clive Cohen in Totnes Archdeaconry. Thanking God for all their commitment and energy.

27. Please pray for the Ashburton & Moorland Mission Community. Their clergy David Sherwood, Corynne Cooper, Geoffrey Fenton, their Readers Peter Kennett, Marion Kaye, Keith Miller and the congregations in Widecombe in the Moor, Postbridge, Leusdon, Holne, Huccaby, Ashburton, Buckland in the Moor and Bickington.

28. ‘For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them.’ Matthew 18:20. Thank God for Bible study and prayer groups who meet around the Diocese, faithfully praying for the life of the Diocese, and holding before God its diverse communities and people.

29. We remember the Benefice of Christ Church Ellacombe, their Priest in Charge, Paul Ireton, and the congregation of Christ Church, Ellacombe.

30. Pray for the ministry of the Bishop of Exeter, the Rt Revd Robert Atwell.

31. Pray for all attending the diocesan safeguarding training day in The Old Deanery, Exeter and bring to God the work done by Sarah Miller and Catherine Allen in that department.

Prayers

Thu 1st – Sat 3rd January

God always offers us a new day and a new dawn, no matter what has gone before. As a new year begins, give thanks for last year, seek forgiveness for where you have failed, and commit the new year to God – to serve Him and love Him afresh.

“And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”

LUKE 11:9

1. At the start of a new year, we pray for peace in our world:
God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
2. In hope and faith we offer ourselves anew to God, asking that God be with us and committing ourselves to the task ahead.
3. Pray for all those involved in microfinance in our Companion Diocese of Thika in Kenya - setting up savings and loans groups for hundreds of people who cannot access formal banking - providing finance and business training.



Sun 4th – Sat 10th January

This week hold before God your local school. Pray for pupils and teachers as they return following the Christmas holiday. Ask God to help the staff and young people as they face the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this year brings.

4. Today remember the Withycombe Raleigh Mission Community: their clergy, Robert Sellers, Stephen Hoyle and Trevor Smyth, and the congregations of All Saints, St John in the Wilderness and St John the Evangelist, Withycombe Raleigh.
5. As the new school term begins, please pray for all pupils, students and teachers across the Diocese.
6. God revealed his Son to the nations by the guidance of a star. Today we pray that we, too, may be led into His presence by the light of faith.
7. Pray for Barnstaple Deanery, especially for their Rural Dean, Giles King-Smith, their Lay Chair, Marguerite Shapland, their Secretary, Peter Martin, and their Treasurer, Paul Cooper.
8. Please hold in prayer Francis Otto, priest-in-charge of Abbotsham and the congregation of St Helen.
9. Bring to God the Archdeacon of Cyprus the Ven Dr John Holdsworth in our Companion Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf. Pray for his pastoral and prophetic ministry in the parishes.
10. Pray for ordinands and readers in training as they attend the annual South West Ministry Training Course lecture in Plymouth.

Sun 11th - Sat 17th January

God created this beautiful planet as a place where we might flourish in a just and sustainable way. Pray for all those affected by corruption and climate change. Pray for God's wisdom and grace for these issues. Thank God for those who work for a change in attitudes.

11. Pray for the Yealm and Erme Mission Community: Priest in Charge, Anne Legge and the congregations of All Saints, Holbeton, Holy Cross, Newton Ferrers, and St. Peter, Revelstoke.
12. We pray today for Hartland Deanery, particularly their Rural Dean, Andrew Richardson, Lay Chair, Anne Irwin, Secretary, Sylvia West, Treasurer, Paul Dean, and Chapter Clerk, David Price.
13. Pray for the benefice of Bere Ferrers and Bere Alston in Plymouth Archdeaconry: for the clergy, Andy Barton and Nick Law, reader, Susan Belfield, and the congregations of St Andrew and Holy Trinity (Bere Alston).
14. Pray for the life of Exeter Cathedral, bringing before God all those who minister and worship there.
15. Please pray for our Companion Link with the Melanesian Mission remembering especially the Diocese of Banks and Torres in Melanesia, made up of 13 islands. Pray for their diocesan Bishop the Rt Revd Alfred Worek.
16. Please pray for the Diocesan Communications Team. Director Rebecca Paveley, Publications Officer Nicky Davies and Digital Media Officer John Moxon.
17. Bring to God the Bishop's Diocesan Council as they do work to prepare for Diocesan Synod.

Sun 18th – Sat 24th January

Let us pray for unity among the churches during this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. From this year's resources (www.cbti.org.uk) we pray:

Triune God, following the example of Jesus, make us witnesses to your love.

Grant us to become instruments of justice, peace and solidarity.

May your Spirit move us towards concrete actions that lead to unity.

May walls be transformed into bridges.

This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

18. Pray for our Companion Diocese of Bayeaux-Lisieux in France. Especially for a warm welcome for speakers taking part in this week's preacher exchange.
19. On Martin Luther King Day we thank God for his life and witness to the gospel. As he said 'To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.' Lord help us to pray as if our lives depended on it.
20. Please pray for the Yealmside Mission Community: their clergy Julia French and Owen Murphy, and the congregations of St Mary, Brixton, St Werburgh, Wembury, and St Bartholomew, Yealmpton.
21. Pray for those involved in supporting our church schools as they meet today.
22. Bring to God the Abbotskerswell Mission Community. Their clergy John Leonard and Gill Still, their readers: Ian Firth, Ruth Bettesworth, Tim Collins, and the congregations of St Mary, Kingskerwell, St Bartholomew, Coffinswell and the Blessed Virgin Mary in Abbotskerswell.
23. Reflect on Psalm 139: 11-12. In these dark, winter days consider how you can bring light and life into the lives of people around you?
24. Pray for the congregation of Sticklepath, their minister Guy Chave-Cox and Reader John Hartfield.

