

Autumn 2022

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Norwich

# Prayer Diary

Be who you were  
created to be, and set  
the world on fire

(Catherine of Siena)





## Foreword from Bishop Jane

This quarter's Prayer Diary is focused on "becoming". As Christ transforms us, we are becoming the people we were created to be.

What are you becoming? Somebody once told me a very helpful question she had been asked: "What sort of a 93-year-old would you like to be?" Our Diocesan Vision answers that question for us very well: we, when we are older than we are now, would like indeed to be Transformed by Christ, so that we are people of prayer, pastoral care and prophetic insight.

But how are we to co-operate with the Lord in this transformation? Prayer must be at the heart of our answer to that, prayer which listens as well as asks, prayer which is silent as well as spoken, prayer to which we give time and attention.

"Attention" is the key word here. We are changed by that to which we give attention. If we spend our time fuelling

our anger, we become angry people. Spend time trying to smile and we get into the habit of it. Hundreds of years ago, Saint Augustine taught that the outer form of the sacrament was the way to its inner grace. We too need an outer form. Let us pray that it leads to God's invisible grace.

Of course, becoming is a matter of being and of doing. Perhaps our becoming will lead us to something new. As we turn from Prayer to Pastoral next quarter, may that discernment be clear to your heart as we are all transformed by our Lord.

Please note that the content is compiled some weeks in advance of production, so although all facts are correct at time of press, they may not be by the end of the quarter.  
Thanks for your understanding.

Front Cover image: Madeleine being the change she wants to see, caring for creation in Great Yarmouth

## Opening the Word across the generations

"Retirement was looming, and I needed a project with purpose and a sense of mission," explains Irene Nicholson.

A flyer about *Open the Book* appeared at Hopton Primary school. This lively act of collective worship with a script and Bible stories, with quiet time for reflection and all-inclusive prayer is taken into school by groups of people from any local church. "That was 13 years ago!" reflects Irene. "Now two of us form the team together with the children who create the picture for the story and help to lead the worship.

"One light-bulb moment was when I monitored the worship as a foundation governor and asked a little boy what he thought about our telling of the story of The Good Shepherd. He said: 'I was the shepherd in that *Open the Book* story. It made me feel protected because Jesus will look after all of his sheep.' What a privilege!"

[www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book)



### SUN 4 OPENING YOUR BOOK

Lord, we give thanks for those who created *Open the Book* and for all who go into schools and clubs sharing the story of the Bible with young people. Remind us and inspire us to share our faith through listening, encouraging, sharing, nurturing and welcoming all those we meet.

### MON 5 BRAMERTON GROUP MINISTRY (ROCKLAND)

Bramerton, Carleton Saint Peter, Claxton, Kirby Bedon and Whitlingham, Rockland St Mary, Surlingham. Clergy: Nick Garrard, Helen Garrard. Finance support: Susan Bunting, James South, Ben Tooke, Fiona Jeffs and Michel Hibbin. **Dioceses of Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri and West Missouri (Episcopal Church USA).**

### TUE 6 BRAMERTON GROUP MINISTRY (THURTON)

Ashby, Bergh Apton, Framingham Pigot, Thurton, Yelverton. Clergy: Chris Ellis, Cate Turner. Alington & Bergh Apton Primary, Thurton Primary. Licensing of Ashley Hines as Team Vicar in the Great Yarmouth Team Ministry. **The Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh (Anglican Church of Canada).**

### WED 7 HELP US TO LISTEN

O God, you speak to us in many and varied ways: whenever we "open the book" alone or with others, help us to listen for your call. Reveal yourself afresh through the pages of your Word, nudging us with new insights, new challenges.

### THU 8 CHET VALLEY

Chedgrave, Hardley, Langley, Loddon, Sisland. Clergy: David Owen, Alison Ball, Jill Haylock. LLM: Belinda Barwick. Honorary Assistant Bishops: Norman Banks (Richborough) and Rod Thomas (Maidstone). **Diocese of Mityana (Church of Province of Uganda).**

### FRI 9 PORINGLAND

Framingham Earl, Howe, Poringland. Clergy: Robert Parsonage, Rachel Foster. **Diocese of Mombasa (Anglican Church of Kenya).**

### SAT 10 RAVENINGHAM GROUP

The Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy. Meeting of the Bishop's Council of Trustees. Institution tomorrow of Paul Williams as Rector of the Sandringham Group of Parishes **Diocese of Monmouth (Church in Wales).**



## Visionary founders, inspiring staff

All are welcome at 3.30pm on 25 September at a special service in the Cathedral to mark the 250th anniversary of the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital. Who knows how many hundreds have served as hospital chaplains during that time?

One of the current chaplains is Canon Darren Thornton. When pandemic struck, the university chaplaincy where he ministered closed overnight, so he offered himself as a hospital bank chaplain instead and, having worked in mental health chaplaincy years before, felt immediately at home. When a fulltime post came up, he applied, encouraged by colleagues who saw with clarity that God was calling Darren to join them. He loves it, deeply fulfilled in the task of bringing hope to the bedsides of the sick and dying. "It's a privilege to bring something of God into desperate situations," he says. "And it's a great place to work – those doctors and nurses are miracle workers!"

## Integrate Youth for Christ work in Thetford Academy

Steph's story started locally with voluntary work and developed to charity work, alongside a group of churches in primary schools and high schools in Norfolk. After hearing a Thetford vicar saying, "We can't have a generation passing us by on my watch without knowing Christ", a youth café was started.

Some four years later after praying and pushing on doors, Steph found the right person to talk to at the high school and doors opened. A weekly lunchtime club, More2Life, was formed at Thetford Academy. Students meet as they eat their lunch and hear about Jesus in sessions like 'Magic tricks or Miracles?'

What a start! Steph sees young people sometimes living a partial life, spending hours on screen, and struggling with mental health. Her prayer is that they come to know Jesus, have life, and have it to the full (John 10:10).

[www.integrateyfc.org.uk](http://www.integrateyfc.org.uk)



### SUN 11 GRACE FOR THE HELPERS AND HEALERS

God of hope and healing, as we thank you for the visionary founders of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and gratefully acknowledge its long service to our community, we ask your blessing upon its chaplains and upon all who work there today. Grace them, we pray, with resilience, insight and compassion.

### MON 12 VENTA GROUP

Arminghall, Caistor St Edmund, Stoke Holy Cross. Clergy: Rob Baker, Lyn Marsh. The ministry of our retired clergy. **Diocese of Montana (Episcopal Church USA).**

### TUE 13 WAVENEY MARSHLANDS

Aldeby, Burgh St Peter, Ellingham, Geldeston, Gillingham, Haddiscoe, Kirby Cane, Norton Subcourse, Raveningham, Stockton, Thorpe-next-Haddiscoe, Thurlton, Toft Monks, Wheatacre. Clergy: David Smith. Ellingham Primary, Gillingham St Michael's Primary. **Dioceses of Montreal and Moosonee (Anglican Church of Canada).**

### WED 14 BEING OPEN

Beckoning God, your call so often comes through the insight of others. When they wonder aloud, making suggestions about our next steps, may we be open to new possibilities and willing to test their discernment.

### THU 15 DEANERY OF LOTHINGLAND

Rural Dean: Helen Jary. Lay Chair: Trudie Jackson, Jane Tighe. Deanery of Skellefteå in Luleå our link diocese in Sweden. **Dioceses of Moray, Ross and Caithness (Scottish Episcopal Church).**

### FRI 16 CARLTON COLVILLE

Carlton Colville, Mutford. Clergy: Sarah Quantrill. LLM: Mark Ellis. Roman Catholic Church: Diocese of East Anglia, Bishop Alan Hopes.

### SAT 17 HOPTON, CORTON AND GUNTON

Clergy: Nigel Lacey. Corton Primary, Hopton Primary. All serving as LLMs and those to be licensed today. **Diocese of Morobo (Episcopal Church of South Sudan).**

### SUN 18 LIFE TO THE FULL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Lord Jesus, we pray for doors to be opened in schools so that the younger generation come to know you, our good shepherd, carrying us, protecting us, even laying down your life for us. May our young people learn to trust you, have life and have it to the full.

### MON 19 KESSINGLAND

Gisleham, Kessingland, Rushmere. Clergy: Mandy Bishop. LLM: Doreen Cowie. Kessingland Primary. Bishop's Staff meeting today. **Dioceses of Morogoro and Mpwapwa (Anglican Church of Tanzania).**

### TUE 20 KIRKLEY

Clergy: Helen Chandler. Michaela Sorenson to be instituted today as Team Rector of St Faith's Gaywood. **Dioceses of Mpumalanga and Mthatha (Anglican Church of Southern Africa).**

### WED 21 FULLY ALIVE

Transforming Christ, you long for us – whatever our age – to be fully alive in you. As we thank you for those called to take your fulness of life into schools, embolden us all to speak of you to the young in our lives.

### THU 22 LOWESTOFT CHRIST CHURCH

Clergy: Jon Carter. LLM: Peter Williams. PCC Treasurers and Secretaries. **Dioceses of Muhabura and Mukono (Province of Uganda).**

### FRI 23 LOWESTOFT ST ANDREW

Clergy: Damon Rogers. LLM: Eileen McMurtry. Education support: Paul Dunning, Holly Davy, Chris Allan, John Moule. **Diocese of Multan (United Church of Pakistan).**

### SAT 24 LOWESTOFT ST MARGARET

The Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy. LLM: Gerda Buckley. **Diocese of Mumbai (United Church of North India).**



## Called to creation care

Eleven-year-old Madeleine Humphries from Norwich has always been interested in protecting nature. As lockdown restrictions eased, Madeleine joined a community litter-picking group in the city but wanted to do more. "I love the seaside and I want to help the wildlife. It's good because God made the world and the creatures in it, and we've got to look after them. A seal was bobbing up and down watching us as we cleared up. The worst part was finding 40 dog poo bags in an hour, people stuff them down animal dens and in the reeds. It was exhausting, but I hope we saved a lot of wildlife that day"

Madeleine and her mum joined Norfolk Beach Cleans on their monthly litter pick in Great Yarmouth. *The Great Big Green Week* is the UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. Can you get involved?

[www.greatbiggreenweek.com](http://www.greatbiggreenweek.com)

### SUN 25 THANK YOU

Thank you for the seals in Norfolk, swimming like dogs in the sea, and for the birds on the beach, and the small wildlife and insects that live in the reeds. It makes me feel so happy to see them and sad to see the litter that needs clearing up. (Madeleine, age 11 years)

### MON 26 OULTON BROAD TEAM MINISTRY

Oulton, Oulton Broad. Clergy: Helen Jary, Margaret Barnes, Andy Bunter, Dannie Hancock. LLMs: Jackie Makower, Debbie Allsop, Jill Hunting, Harold Waterman. Property and glebe support: Alan Cole, Charles Thurston, Yvette Sullivan, Sally Finn.

Dioceses of Mumias and Murang'a South (Anglican Church of Kenya).

### TUE 27 PAKEFIELD

Clergy: Sharon Lord, Becki Bensusan. LLM: Trudie Jackson. Tracy Jessop to be instituted today as Rector of Fakenham and Priest in Charge, Fulmodeston with Croxton.

Dioceses of Mundri and Mundu (South Sudan).

### WED 28 PROTEST AND PROTECT

O God, you call each one of us to care for creation: as we thank you for Madeleine's response to humanity's violation of your world, we pray that we too may hear your summons to protest and protect.

### THU 29 SOMERLEYTON

Ashby, Blundeston, Fritton, Herringfleet, Lound, Somerleyton. The Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy. Blundeston Primary. Diocese of The Murray (Anglican Church of Australia).

### FRI 30 DEANERY OF LYNN

Rural Dean: Karlene Kerr. Lay Chair: Jan Willson. Spire Staff: David Lemon, Iain Walker, Les Bailey, Matt Ramsell.

Diocese of Muyinga (Anglican Church of Burundi).

### SAT 1 GAYTON, GRIMSTON, MASSINGHAM & DISTRICT TEAM MINISTRY

Ashwicken w Leziate, Bawsey & Mintlyn, Congham, East Walton, Gayton, Gayton Thorpe, Great Massingham, Grimston, Harpley, Little Massingham, Roydon. Clergy: Judith Pollard, Sue Martin. LLMs: Helen Steele, Joy Smith. Ashwicken Primary, Gayton Primary, Great Massingham Primary, Harpley Primary.

Licensing of new Archdeacons; Catherine Dobson (Lynn) and Keith James (Norwich).

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7



## Becoming aware

In 2016 Blessing Chishanu, having grown up in Zimbabwe and studied theology in Namibia, had a call to serve the church in Lowestoft. Coming to England required finding a place to belong and getting to grips with cultural differences in the church. Blessing has found the African philosophy of “ubuntu” and its relationship to our Christian witness helpful. “Ubuntu” is an ethic that gives high regard to the relationship between the collective and the individual. The individual exists in the context of the collective.

Blessing says, “I may not understand everyone’s language nor have a palate for your foods, but I do know when I’m truly loved. As we journey together on the basis of a love hewn in Christ for the other, then the rest will naturally fall in place. Finding home for ‘communities of difference’ often has to do with finding communities where the Love of Christ is tangibly discerned.”

## Walking with those in grief

“I didn’t feel called to work for TimeNorfolk,” says Lindsey Nettleton, “It felt more of a timely push through an open door! A client I was supporting ended a wanted pregnancy due to medical reasons. It was heartbreaking. Being alongside her in her grief and intense isolation changed me. I referred her to TimeNorfolk and discovered the job vacancy. It wasn’t a role I felt equipped for, and I didn’t want it if it wasn’t where God wanted me. But various confirmations from all angles led to me becoming Head of Counselling and Training.

Four years on and I love the role and all it brings. The staff team share a Christian faith which sustains us when alongside those grieving pregnancy loss or facing an unplanned pregnancy. I feel privileged to be part of an organization that cares for people in their darkest places and seeing hope grow in often unexpected ways.

[www.timenorfolk.org.uk/babyloss](http://www.timenorfolk.org.uk/babyloss)



### SUN 2 A PLACE OF LOVE

Lord Jesus, as we become aware of communities of difference, we pray that you will help us to love them as you do and that we as the church may be a place of love where they may find a home.

### MON 3 GAYWOOD

Clergy: Kyla Sorensen, Karlene Kerr. LLM: Daphne Sampson. Methodist Church: East Anglian District Chair, Julian Pursehouse. Diocese of Myitkyina (Myanmar).

### TUE 4 KING’S LYNN MINSTER WITH SAINT NICHOLAS – KING’S LYNN GROUP

Clergy: Mark Dimond. LLM: Andrew Ward. Registry: Stuart Jones, Catherine Waddams, Joanna Pelan, James Hall, Frances Godden. Diocese of Nagpur (United Church of North India).

### WED 5 BEARING WITNESS

At our baptisms, O God, you invited us on a lifelong journey of deepening love for you spilling out to others. May we shine as lights in the world, bearing witness to your unconditional love for all people.

### THU 6 MIDDLEWINCH

East Winch with West Bilney, Middleton, North Runcton, West Winch and Setchey. Clergy: Riaz Mubarak. LLM: Helen Steele. Middleton Primary. Dioceses of Nairobi, Nakuru and Nambale (Anglican Church of Kenya).

### FRI 7 SOUTH AND WEST LYNN – KING’S LYNN GROUP

Clergy: Adrian Ling. St Michael’s Primary, Whitefriars Primary. Safeguarding: Sue Brice, Peter Sayer, Ruth Walker and all Parish Safeguarding Officers. Dioceses of Namibia and Nampulu (Anglican Church of Southern Africa).

### SAT 8 ST JOHN – KING’S LYNN GROUP

Clergy: Jon Price. LLMs: Joyce Pitcher, Nigel Singleterry, David Osborne. Diocese of Namirembe (Province of Uganda).

### SUN 9 JOURNEYING WITH THOSE GRIEVING

Father God, whose compassion is further than we can imagine, we ask that you comfort all those who have experienced a pregnancy loss. We thank you for those who journey alongside those who are grieving. We pray for your comfort, protection and hope for all those in distress.

### MON 10 THE CHURCH IN THE WOOTTONS

Clergy: James Nash, Julie Swinton, Imagine Norfolk Together: Andrew Frere Smith, Anna Heydon. Diocese of Nandyal (United Church of South India).

### TUE 11 DEANERY OF NORWICH EAST

Rural Dean: Edward Carter. Lay Chair: Bridgid Everitt. Diocese of Nasik (United Church of North India).

### WED 12 DEEPEN OUR TRUST

Beckoning God, when your call surprises us, deepen our trust that you know us better than we know ourselves and reassure us that your longing is simply that we become more fully the people you have created us to be.

### THU 13 COLEGATE & TOMBLAND NORWICH

Clergy: Alaric Lewis, Annie Blyth. LLM: Kevin Mitchelson. Diocesan Adviser in Spirituality and Discipleship, Susanna Gunner.

Diocese of Nasir (Episcopal Church of South Sudan).

### FRI 14 HEARTSEASE (NORWICH)

Clergy: Janet Wyer, Patrick Jordan, Tracy Williams. LLMs: Gloria Chinery, Jim Green, David Lechmere, Ashley Williams. The Open Academy. PAs to Bishops and Archdeacons: Sophie Bell, Ann Whittet, Graham Cossey.

Diocese of Natal (Anglican Church of Southern Africa).

### SAT 15 LAKENHAM GROUP

(Norwich Lakenham St Mark) Clergy: Erik West-Lindell. LLM: Paulette Yallop. Meeting of Diocesan Synod. Area Mission in Navajoland, Diocese of Nebraska (Episcopal Church USA).

# All are called to hear the voice of creation

**The Rt Revd Graham Usher**  
Bishop of Norwich and lead bishop on environment



The care of creation is not an optional extra for a life of discipleship but an integral part to the choices we make as we walk with Jesus. It should, therefore, be infused in our penitence and praise, our prayer and preaching.

As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for creation. We are co-creatures, and part of all that God has made. Our wellbeing is interwoven with the wellbeing of the Earth. During this season of Creationtide and beyond we have an opportunity to take stock about how we safeguard our common home and all beings who share it.

Faced with the reality of brokenness, suffering and death, Christ’s incarnation and resurrection becomes the hope for reconciling and healing the Earth.

This summer we experienced days of extreme heat and wildfires destroyed people’s homes and creatures’ habitats here in Norfolk. The prevalence of unnatural fires are one sign of the devastating effects that climate change has on the most vulnerable of our planet. Human greed and land misuse has led to the disintegration of ecosystems, the destruction of habitats, and the loss of livelihoods and species at an alarming rate. Creation cries out as forests crackle and animals flee. People are forced to migrate due to the fires of injustice that we have caused.

Yet the fire that called to Moses as he tended the flock on Mount Horeb did not consume or destroy the bush. This was a flame of the Holy Spirit that revealed God’s life-sustaining presence. This holy fire affirmed that God heard the cries of all who suffered and promised to be with us as we followed faithfully to deliverance from injustice. This symbol calls us to listen to the voice of creation, and faithfully respond

through worship, repentance and action.

Moses was told to remove his sandals, for he was standing on holy ground in God’s presence. Perhaps we need to remove the “sandals” of our unsustainable lifestyles that disconnect us from creation and our Creator, contemplate our connection to the holy ground where we live, and listen for the voice of creation.

In all of this, I hope that we can keep praying with a hope-filled realism, knowing with the Psalmist that, “The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge... their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the Earth, and their words to the end of the world.” (19: 1-4)

Choosing to weave creation care through our prayer and action helps us listen to the voice of God, as well as the voices of those made in God’s image who are silenced. In prayer we lament the individuals, communities, species, and ecosystems who are lost, and those whose livelihoods are threatened by habitat loss and climate change. In prayer we centre the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor, as we strive to be people of good news for God’s earth.

*Give us hearts to listen for the good news of your promise to renew the face of the Earth. Enlighten us with the grace to follow the Way of Christ as we learn to walk lightly upon this holy ground. Fill us with the hope to quench the fires of injustice with the light of your healing love that sustains our common home.*

Excerpt from a prayer in the Season of Creation Celebration Guide 2022  
[www.seasonofcreation.org](http://www.seasonofcreation.org)



## Discerning the way forward

In 2018, Ashley Hobbs came to Norwich to explore God's call on her life. She lived in a city flat with three others who'd also responded to the invitation from this diocese to join the Ministry Experience Scheme. She'd initially assumed it was only for those explicitly exploring ordination but "God made it clear that this was one of the paths on my journey".

Three years later, she looks back on a rich, influential year which taught her many things. From living with others, Ash learnt about human complexity; being offered a taster of many forms of ministry gave her the confidence to think bigger about how "I might share God's good news"; the theological modules on offer quickened her eagerness to learn and deepened her faith. "Despite some difficult moments," she reflects, "the year opened my mind and helped me discern God's call to work with children and young people."

[www.DofN.org/ministry-experience-scheme](http://www.DofN.org/ministry-experience-scheme)

## "Oh God, where are we going today?"

Licensed Lay Worker Carrie Sant's calling begins by seeking to offer her days to God and to be available where a need is revealed, then stepping out in faith, asking God to lead in filling the gap. As a City Reach NHS outreach nurse she worked for many years amongst the marginalised. Her vision in setting up a community group 12 years ago was to help people build new social networks, by working together to do good works. She is now retired but work initiated by the group was passed on and continues through various charities.

Carrie is humbly seeking ways to avoid forcing people into moulds. Her attitude is to learn from, to encourage and to pass the baton to see individuals fulfil their own calling. She continues to go where God is calling her at any particular time. Faith being for her "a way of life not just a system of belief".



### SUN 16 EXPECTATION

Holy Spirit of God, inspire us to expect your call at every stage of our lives and to be open to it in many and varied contexts. Guide each of us to "the place where our deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet" (Buechner).

### MON 17 LAKENHAM GROUP

(St John & Tuckswold) Clergy: Paul Rider. LLM: Gus Woodcock. All church musicians. Deanery of Sodra (South) Lappland in Luleå, our link diocese in Sweden

### TUE 18 NORWICH CATHEDRAL

Clergy: Peter Doll, Aidan Platten, Andy Bryant, Edwin Wilton-Morgan. LLM: Frank Paice. Diocese of Ndokwa (Church of Nigeria).

### WED 19 WORTHY OF OUR CALLING

Beckoning God, you are full of surprises, sometimes leading us in directions we had never expected. Reassure us, we pray, empower and equip us for whatever lies ahead, and make us worthy of our calling.

### THU 20 ST ANDREW (NORWICH)

Clergy: Martin Young, Michael Hayden. DDO & IME2, Michael Fox and Administrator, Margaret Mallett. Diocese of Nebbi (Province of Uganda).

### FRI 21 ST GILES (NORWICH)

Clergy: Alaric Lewis. Diocese of Nelson (Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia).

### SAT 22 ST HELEN (NORWICH)

Clergy: Eleanor Langan. All who serve as school chaplains and school governors. Dioceses of Nevada and Nebraska (Episcopal Church USA).

### SUN 23 SANCTIFY

God of peace and restoration, please open our eyes to trust your Spirit working within us, sanctifying us through and through, both in visible works and works upon our souls: "The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it" 1Thess 5.24.

### MON 24 ST PETER MANCROFT (NORWICH)

Clergy: Edward Carter, Fiona Haworth, Naomi Tuma. LLMs: Gill Persicke. Catherine Waddams. Strategic Programme Manager, Julie Smith; Central Services Support, Beth Grimshaw. Diocese of New Busa (Church of Nigeria).

### TUE 25 ST STEPHEN (NORWICH)

Madeline Light, Ian Fifield, Sam Luscombe. Diocese of New Guinea Islands (Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea).

### WED 26 STEER US

O God, lover of the least and the lost, healer of the bruised and broken, your call so often comes through another's need. May your Spirit steer us to where you want us to be.

### THU 27 THORPE END

Clergy: Tim Dawson. LLM: Jenefer Barnard. IT and Data Co-ordinator: Barbara Kirk. Dioceses of New Hampshire, New Jersey (Episcopal Church USA).

### FRI 28 THORPE HAMLET (NORWICH)

Norwich Thorpe Hamlet. Clergy: Patrick Jordan, Janet Wyer. Diocese of New Westminster (Anglican Church of Canada).

### SAT 29 THORPE ST ANDREW (NORWICH)

Thorpe Episcopi. Clergy: James Stewart. Bishop's Press and Projects Officer; Barbara Bryant. Dioceses of New York, Central New York and Western New York (Episcopal Church USA).



## It's never too late...

"Perhaps I shouldn't be surprised," reflects Elizabeth Hargest who was commissioned as an Authorised Worship Assistant (AWA) just last year, "because leading worship is in my DNA." Her father was a priest and her grandfather a bishop and she'd wondered in the past about licensed lay or even ordained ministry, but family commitments were always the stronger call. Newly aware of AWA ministry, however, the call came again. More strongly.

A youthful 79, full of energy and enthusiasm, Elizabeth now regularly leads weekday Morning Prayer (pictured) as well as Sunday Services of the Word across the North Walsham benefice. She is part of the Lay Chalice Assistant team, oversees a weekly hour of silent prayer and takes the reserved Sacrament to people in their homes. "That was such a humbling step," she says, "and part of what I love most about this role – making simple connections between God's Word and people's everyday lives."

## Hospitality and home

"Jesus' invitation of relationship is based on a metaphor of hospitality," says Anna Lloyd, quoting Revelation 3:20: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person."

"I have always felt called to cultivate safe and loving spaces of hospitality. Growing up in vicarages, I loved seeing the impact sharing our home had on people. From a cup of tea, to offering individuals a place to stay for a season, joining in with God's heart for hospitality has been something which has become second nature. It is why we so enjoyed helping create spaces like The Sanctuary and The Mitre in Norwich, and why our recent decision to invite a displaced Ukrainian family to come and live with us, was an easy one. My prayer is that together we will know what it is 'to dwell in the house of the Lord forever' (Psalm 23)."



### SUN 30 A CONSTANT CALL

O God, you long for us to live life in all its fullness: we thank you for the constancy of your call upon our lives and pray for grace to hear the way that call may evolve across a lifetime. Grant us the humility and courage to be open and obedient to it.

### MON 31 TIMBERHILL (NORWICH)

Norwich St John Timberhill. Clergy: Richard Stanton, Edwin Wilton-Morgan.  
Diocese of Newala (Anglican Church of Tanzania).

### TUE 1 TROWSE (NORWICH)

Norwich Trowse. Clergy: Rosemary Braby.  
LLM: Chris Sanham.  
Warden of LLMs: Linda Church and Deputy Warden: Charles Read.  
Diocese of Newark (Episcopal Church USA).

### WED 2 FAITHFUL RESPONSE

O God, your call upon our lives began before you formed us in the womb (Jer 1.5) and continues till our dying day: may we faithfully respond to your beckoning from cradle to grave.

### THU 3 DEANERY OF NORWICH NORTH

Rural Dean: Margaret McPhee.  
Lay Chair: Stella Noons.  
Diocese of Newcastle (Anglican Church of Australia).

### FRI 4 DRAYTON

Clergy: Marc Palmer. Drayton Junior.  
Diocese of Newcastle (Church of England).

### SAT 5 HELLESDON

Clergy: Louise Alder.  
Baptist Church Regional Minister, Beth Powney.  
Dioceses of Eastern, Central and Western, Newfoundland and Labrador (Anglican Church of Canada).

### SUN 6 INSPIRING HOSPITALITY

Thank you, Father God, that you invite every person to sit and eat with you, to feed and rest in your company. Please encourage and inspire us in the gift of hospitality. Show us who you would have us share our table and home with.

### MON 7 HORSFORD, FELTHORPE AND HEVINGHAM

Clergy: Margaret McPhee. LLM: Richard McPhee.  
Horsford Primary.  
Diocese of Ngbo (Church of Nigeria).

### TUE 8 HORSHAM, SPIXWORTH & CROSTWICK

Clergy: Rosemary Maskell. St Faiths Primary (Horsham).  
Diocese of Niagara (Anglican Church of Canada).

### WED 9 KNOCK AT OUR HEART'S DOOR

Hospitable God, your call for us to mirror your hospitality echoes through the pages of Scripture: knock at the door of our hearts until we share our food with the hungry and provide the wanderer with shelter (Isaiah 58.7).

### THU 10 MILE CROSS

Clergy: Martin Hartley, Ruth Lambert. LLM: Margaret Proudfoot.  
Diocese of Niassa (Anglican Church of Southern Africa).

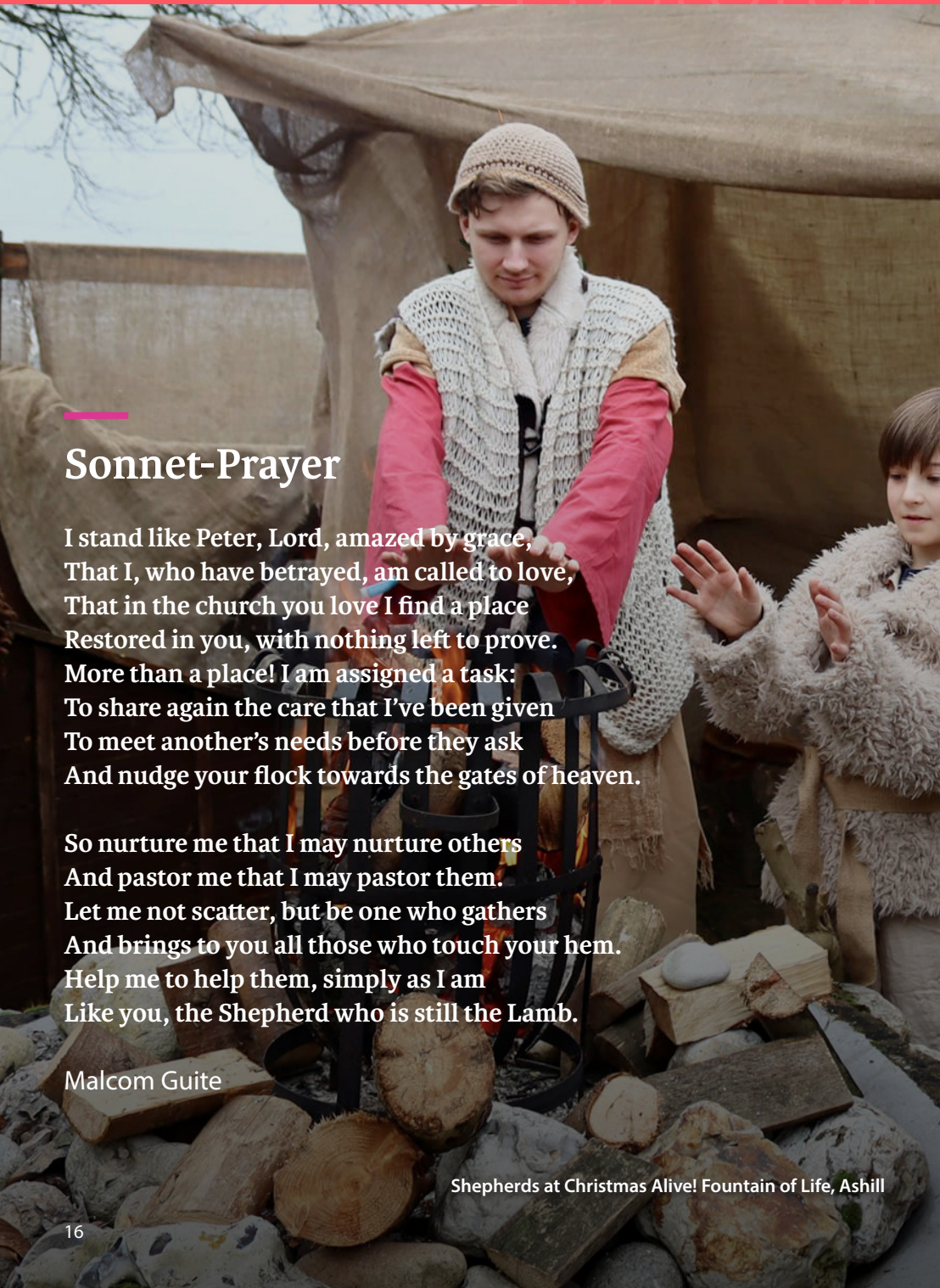
### FRI 11 OLD CATTON

Clergy: David Hagan-Palmer, Sally McCubbin. LLM: Jo Mash. Old Catton Junior. Communications; Elizabeth Humphries, Katherine Limbach.  
Diocese of Nicaragua (Iglesia Anglicana Central de America).

### SAT 12 OUR BISHOPS

Bishops Graham (Norwich), Alan (Thetford), Jane (Lynn)





## Sonnet-Prayer

I stand like Peter, Lord, amazed by grace,  
That I, who have betrayed, am called to love,  
That in the church you love I find a place  
Restored in you, with nothing left to prove.  
More than a place! I am assigned a task:  
To share again the care that I've been given  
To meet another's needs before they ask  
And nudge your flock towards the gates of heaven.

So nurture me that I may nurture others  
And pastor me that I may pastor them.  
Let me not scatter, but be one who gathers  
And brings to you all those who touch your hem.  
Help me to help them, simply as I am  
Like you, the Shepherd who is still the Lamb.

Malcom Guite

Shepherds at Christmas Alive! Fountain of Life, Ashill



## A space to wrestle and belong

By lunchtime on the day we meet, the Revd Jack Branford has already had his regular meeting with the Headmaster, taught a Year 10 RE lesson and visited the bereaved family with whom he's planning the funeral of a parent. He has been Chaplain at Gresham's School for two years and delights in the "incredible privilege" of the role. His own chaplain at Norwich School was "great when I was wrestling with life's big questions" and it was there that Jack came to faith. Since ordination, he's felt powerfully drawn to school chaplaincy himself.

It is now his turn to offer space for wrestling. But everyone also craves a sense of belonging and through his welcome, encouragement and pastoral care, Jack offers this too. "This is your Chapel," he tells the Gresham's community often. Sixty of its members – both students and staff – have been baptised and/or confirmed in the last 12 months.

### SUN 13 PRAY FOR SCHOOLS

Tender God, as we near *Pray Day for Schools* (15 Nov), we hold this region's schools in your love, conscious of the mental health needs of many young people. Be with them, we pray, and with all teachers and chaplains, strengthening with your presence those offering pastoral care as well as those receiving it.

### MON 14 SPROWSTON & NORTH NORWICH TEAM MINISTRY

Norwich New Catton, Norwich New Catton St Luke, Norwich St Mary Magdalene, Sprowston.  
Clergy: Simon Stokes, Dean Akrill, Danny Doran-Smith, Graham Kirk-Spriggs, Selwyn Tillet. LLMs: Andrew Hudson, Stephanie Grand, Margaret Gray.  
Diocese on the Niger (Church of Nigeria).

### TUE 15 TAVERHAM WITH RINGLAND

Clergy: Paul Seabrook, Stella Green, Valerie Hooker, Phil Charlesworth. LLM: Beatrice Dryden.  
Taverham Junior.  
Dioceses of the Niger Delta, Niger Delta North, Niger Delta West and on the Niger (Church of Nigeria).

### WED 16 NURTURING FAITH

Wherever we are and whatever we're doing, O God, may we be alive to the privilege of nurturing the call to faith in others – sensing interest, willing to wrestle, making connections, building confidence, fostering belonging.

### THU 17 DEANERY OF NORWICH SOUTH

Rural Dean: Patrick Richmond.  
Lay Chair: Sandra Isaac.  
Dioceses of Niger West, Nike and Nnewi (Church of Nigeria).

### FRI 18 BOWTHORPE (NORWICH)

Clergy: Mark Elvin. Cloverhill Infant & Nursery (Bowthorpe), St Michael's Junior (Bowthorpe).  
Diocese of Nimule (Episcopal Church of South Sudan).

### SAT 19 COSTESSEY

Clergy: James Pinto.  
Diocesan Counsellor & Adviser in Pastoral Care: Jane Keeton



## A journey of ‘becoming’

The calling to Licensed Lay Ministry in the Church of England is a distinctive one. One such person training to be a lay minister in the diocese is Lee Marsden from St Catherine’s, Mile Cross, Norwich.

Lee explained that he felt called to ministry when praying for direction whilst working at the University of East Anglia. He recalls a deep sense of being called to minister alongside those outside the church as a pioneer lay minister.

As he set out on that “journey of becoming”, an unexpected twist and turn occurred. In praying for future direction, Isaiah 58:7 spoke to him about the need to provide homes for the homeless. An opportunity to do that through working for *Hope into Action*, a charity partnering with churches to house the homeless, was taken and the university career set aside as an act of faith and next step on that journey.

[www.hopeintoaction.org.uk](http://www.hopeintoaction.org.uk)

## The calling of a Warden

Ian Newton is the sole Churchwarden of St Andrew’s Field Dalling, part of a multi-parish benefice in rural North Norfolk. “It’s quite a commitment!” he smiles. “Even when worshipping communities are small, the church has a unique and vital role to play in the wider community.” He’s passionate about its open-door policy and enlists willing support from both within and beyond the congregation to care for the building and churchyard.

He represents St Andrew’s at Parish Council meetings and instead of grumbling about second home-owners, tries to draw them in, recruiting one for the PCC. This emphasis on welcome, outreach and engagement emerges from Ian’s longing that the church be a visible and vibrant presence serving the whole community. There are many practical projects. Next on the agenda? An exploration with the architect on the siting of a new loo. “Please pray that we wardens might remember why we do such things,” he says.



### SUN 20 LOVING KINDNESS

Father God, thank you for your loving kindness. We pray for those you have called into licensed lay ministry that they would serve you faithfully, walk in your ways, hear your voice, and radiate your love. We pray your hand be upon them and your arms surround them.

### MON 21 EARLHAM

Clergy: Di Rowlandson, Julian Bryant, Andy Woodman, Carol Pritchard.  
**Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island (Anglican Church of Canada).**

### TUE 22 EATON CHRIST CHURCH (NORWICH)

Clergy: Patrick Richmond. LLM: John Harrison, Alistair Bolt, Ashley Williams.  
**Diocese of Nsukka (Church of Nigeria).**

### WED 23 TURN TO PRAYER

We glimpse you in the gospels, Lord Jesus, turning to prayer again and again, particularly at testing moments. Inspired by your example, may we too turn to prayer, open to your guiding when the way ahead seems uncertain.

### THU 24 EATON ST ANDREW (NORWICH)

Clergy: Phil Rodd, James Cook. LLM: Neil Rout.  
 Deanery of Sodra (South) Vasterbotten in Luleå, our link diocese in Sweden.  
**Diocese of Nyahuru (Anglican Church of Kenya).**

### FRI 25 HEIGHAM HOLY TRINITY (NORWICH)

Clergy: Richard James, James Pinto. Licensed Lay Minister: Jonathan Mason, Elizabeth Scott, Nigel Parfitt.  
**Diocese of Nyamiel, Nyang and Nzara (Episcopal Church of South Sudan).**

### SAT 26 THE MITRE

St Alban Lakenham, St Barnabas Heigham w St Bartholomew, St Thomas Heigham. Clergy: Tom Eagles, PJ Brombley, Dave Hendra, David Lloyd, Joanna Payne, Di Rowlandson. LLM: Diana Timms.

### SUN 27 SELFLESS SERVICE

Servant Lord, we thank you for the selfless way in which our churchwardens serve you and their communities, often in hidden and unsung ways. Grant them imagination, patience and fortitude. May all they do be grounded, rooted and built in you and in the good news of your unconditional love.

### MON 28 DEANERY OF REDENHALL

Rural Dean: Nigel Tuffnell.  
 Lay Chair: Jennifer Vere.  
 Companion Province of Papua New Guinea.

### TUE 29 DICKLEBURGH AND THE PULHAMS

Dickleburgh, Pulham Market, Pulham St Mary, Rushall, Starston, Thelveton. Clergy: Sarah Walsh, Paul Schwier. LLM: Gale Hodgkinson. Dickleburgh Primary, Pulham Primary. Those who serve as Rural Deans and Deanery Lay Chairs.

### WED 30 PASTORAL

Transforming Christ, as the focus of our Diocesan Vision moves from ‘Prayerful’ to ‘Pastoral’, teach us, we pray, to shepherd your people, reaching out in unconditional service to the communities around us. (See website for resources.)

### THU 1 EARSHAM GROUP (DITCHINGHAM)

Alburgh, Broome, Denton, Ditchingham, Earsham, Hedenham. Clergy: Chris Hutton, Jutta Brueck, James Shelton, Sue Cramp. LLM: Christine Edwards, Phil Edwards, Christopher Whipps. Alburgh-w-Denton Primary, Ditchingham Primary, Earsham Primary.  
 Diocese of Southern Nyanza (Anglican Church of Kenya).

### FRI 2 REDENHALL WITH SCOLE

Billingford, Brockdish, Needham, Redenhall with Harleston and Wortwell, Scole, Thorpe Abbots. Clergy: Nigel Tuffnell, James Shelton. LLMs: Lynda Mansfield, John Taylor, Jamie Worthington. Archbishop Sancroft Academy (Harleston), Harleston Primary Academy, Scole Primary.

### SAT 3 THE DISS TEAM MINISTRY

Bressingham, Burston, Diss, Fersfield, Gissing, North Lopham, Roydon, Shelfanger, South Lopham, Tivetshall, Winfarthing. Clergy: John Cruse, Samuel Thorp. LLMs: Janice Cruse, Sue Drake. All Saints Primary (Winfarthing), Diss Junior, St Andrew’s Primary (Lopham).



**Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born, I set you apart.** Jeremiah 1.5

(Above) Isla's baptism at St Peter's Ringland.

If you have a story to feature on a Sunday in a future diary,  
please do get in touch! Email [news@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:news@dioceseofnorwich.org)

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