

Winter 2024

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich

Prayer Diary

INCLUDES
Prayer requests
from clergy
across the Diocese
of Norwich



New Beginnings

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5 v 17



Foreword from **Revd Richard Lamey,** **Director of Mission and Ministry**

Many services in the weeks ahead will begin with the confident beauty of John 1: “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.” That image of the light shining bravely in a dark world speaks deeply to us as human beings and as followers of Christ.

Through the pages which follow we are all invited to pray for one another and for the world – that the light might endure and shine in every nation, community, church and congregation, human relationship, home, heart and life. Every prayer is a lighting of a candle in our own hearts and in the world.

That belief in light in a dark and frightening world goes to the core of this most starkly beautiful of seasons, whether we are lighting an Advent wreath, or gathering for a Christingle service in a school or darkened church, or drawn over fields by the lights of an ancient building towards midnight, early frost crackling underfoot.

There is something elemental about treasuring the light, turning to the light, and it never feels stronger

or truer than in these dark winter months. Light is precious, comforting, welcoming, home.

One of the best-kept and most holy of feasts in the Church of Sweden (with whom we have a link in the Diocese of Lulea) is the Feast of St Lucy. It was originally kept on the Midwinter Solstice rather than December 13 and became a festival of light. A young woman dressed in martyr’s robes, as St Lucy, leads the procession into church with a headdress filled with candles while songs are sung. The community comes together in the dark winter to eat, gather to the light, and celebrate Christ’s constancy and promise.

This year, as every year, we will remember and celebrate the light, first kindled in Bethlehem, which lightens the world. And our role as disciples is to let that light shine in us, through our kindness, through our courage, through our service and through our prayers.

The Revd Richard Lamey,
Director of Mission and Ministry

Please note that the content is compiled some weeks in advance of production, so although we strive to ensure all facts are correct at time of press, they may not be by the end of the quarter.

Over this quarter the Sunday prayers will be the Common Worship additional Collects:

Copyright © The Archbishops’ Council 2000.

Advent Sunday 1

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Monday 2

Tas Valley Team Ministry

Newton Flotman, Saxlingham Nethergate, Shotesham, Swainsthorpe, Tasburgh, Tharston. Clergy: Dawn Davidson, Rachel Heydon, Austin Uzoigwe. LLMs: Lesley Cox, Annette Uzoigwe-Jonker. Schools: Newton Flotman, Preston (Tasburgh) Saxlingham Nethergate. Diocese of Kitale & Kitui (Kenya).

Tuesday 3

The Long Stratton & Pilgrim Team Ministry

Aslacton, Bunwell, Carleton Rode, Great Moulton with Little Moulton, Stratton St Mary, Stratton St Michael and St Peter, Tibenham, Wacton Magna with Wacton Parva. Clergy: Becki Bensusan, John Madinda. LLM: Margaret Smith. Carleton Rode Primary, St Mary's Junior (Long Stratton). Diocese of Kiteto (Tanzania).

Wednesday 4

Upper Tas Valley

Fundenhall, Upper Tas Valley All Saints. Clergy: Dawn Davidson, Rachel Heydon. LLM: John Hooper. Schools: Forncett St Peter, Hapton, Tacolneston, Wreningham Primary. Diocese of Kitgum (Uganda).

Thursday 5

Dereham in Mitford

Rural Dean: Tim Weatherstone. Lay Chair: Philip Richardson. For a successful appointment wherever there is a vacancy.

Friday 6

Barnham Broom & Upper Yare

Barford, Barnham Broom with Bickerston, Brandon Parva, Carelton Forehoe, Cranworth with Letton and Southburgh, Garvestone, Hardingham, Kimberley, Reymerston, Runhall with Coston, Thuxton, Whinburgh with Westfield, Wrampingham. Clergy: Tim Weatherstone. LLM: Mary Weatherstone Barnham Broom Primary. Our candidates for licensed and ordained ministry. Diocese of Kivu (Rwanda).

Saturday 7

Dereham & District Team Ministry

Beetley with East Bilney, East Bradenham with West Bradenham, East Dereham, Hoe, Scarning, Shipdham, Swanton Morley. Clergy: Paul Cubitt, Rachael Dines, Laura Purnell. LLMs: Helen Jeckells, Evelyn Speed, Lydia Crick, Tom Cross. Schools: Dereham Junior; Infant and Nursery, Swanton Morley, Thomas Bullock (Shipdham). Our building projects at Scarning and Dereham and for meaningful engagements with our 13 benefice schools. Diocese of North Kivu (Congo).

Sunday 8 – Second Sunday of Advent

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ
comes again as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.
Amen.

Monday 9 Easton

Bawburgh, Colton, Easton,
Marlingford. Clergy: Laura
Montgomery. LLM: Peter Pease
St Peter's Primary (Easton).
For Open the Book and work with
our schools.
Bishops Graham (Norwich), Jane
(Lynn) and Ian (Thetford).
Diocese of Kobe (Nippon Sei Ko Kai).

Tuesday 10 Honingham

Churchwardens and PCC during
the vacancy. Parish Support Team
– Children, Youth and Families:
Jonathan Richardson, Anna Main,
Matt Beckett, Bonnie Wilson.
Diocese of Koforidua (Church of
the Province of West Africa).

Wednesday 11 Launditch and The Upper Nar Team Ministry

Beeston-next-Mileham, Bittering
Parva, East Lexham, Great Dunham,
Great and Little Fransham,
Gressenhall, Litcham w Kempston,

Little Dunham, Longham,
Mileham, Rougham, Stanfield,
Tittleshall w Godwick, Weasenham,
Wellingham, Wendling, West
Lexham. Clergy: Miriam Fife, Hilary
De Lyon, Kevin Blogg. Meeting of
Bishop's Staff.
Diocese of Kolhapur (Church of
North India).

Thursday 12 Mattishall & Tudd Valley

East Tuddenham, Hockering,
Mattishall, North Tuddenham,
Welborne, Yaxham. Clergy: Sally
Thurgill. LLMs: Jackie Clay, Alan
Cossey, Jaqueline Crisp, Mel
Stevenson. Hockering Primary,
Yaxham Primary.

For the new season in the lives
of our churches, with a new
incumbent.

Diocese of Kollam – Kottarakkara
(Church of South India).

Friday 13 Deanery of Great Yarmouth

Rural Dean: David Wells.
Lay Chair: Pam Spychal.
Diocese of Kondoa (Anglican
Church of Tanzania).

Saturday 14 Belton and Burgh Castle

Clergy: Rosie Bunn.
LLM: Mary Ives
Moorlands Primary (Belton)
Diocese of Kongor (Province of the
Episcopal Church of South Sudan).

Seasons Greetings from Somerleyton

It might be winter, but Somer Sundays came springing into action this autumn. And 'tis the season to be jolly creative at Somerleyton near Lowestoft.

The new Somer Sundays programme of all-age gatherings was launched with a flower festival, songs of praise and candyfloss, followed by a session of firepits, bread-making and hot chocolate, and then a jazz based retelling of the gospel story in November.

The next Somer Sunday is a Christingle service at St Mary's Church in Somerleyton, at 3.30pm on December 8th. Billed as a traditional family gathering with a twist, it will include music from the Garden Folk Band and Christmas treats.

Somer Sundays is run by the Somerleyton Group of churches (Somerleyton, Ashby, Fritton, Herringfleet and Blundeston) alongside Garden Church, a Norfolk based movement which is planting and growing house church communities across the county.



Revd David Lloyd of Garden Church said: "I am really enjoying the joy it brings. It feels really fun and hopeful. I am enjoying the creativity and freedom to offer something different into the mix and to 'have a go'. I loved seeing the youth making candy floss, the elderly handing out wine and the musicians all playing along after the service had ended. It has a festival feel to it."

Following the four pilot Somer Sundays sessions, he hopes momentum will build. "If Somerleyton wants us, I am sure we still stay!"

Scan the QR code
or visit:
[www.DofN.org/
PrayerDiary](http://www.DofN.org/PrayerDiary)
to read full article.



Sunday 15 – Third Sunday of Advent

God for whom we watch and wait,
you send John the Baptist to
prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice, and to suffer
for the cause of right, with Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday 16 Bradwell

Clergy: Steve Deall. LLM: Wendy
Bircham. Homefield Primary
(Bradwell) Blessing St Nicholas
church with children, our hope for
the future. The ministry of clergy
who hold Permission to Officiate.
Our partner Diocese of Luleå, Sweden.

Tuesday 17 Caister

Clergy: David Wells. Archdeacons
Steven, Keith and Catherine.
County Ecumenical Officer, Ian
Watson, and Denominational
Ecumenical Officers. Diocese of
Kontagora (Church of Nigeria).

Wednesday 18 Flegg Parishes Team Ministry North

North Hemsby, Horsey, West
Somerton, Winterton. Clergy:
Deborah Walton, Phil Rodd, Jo
Wood. Funds for roof repairs at Holy
Trinity and All Saints, Winterton and
for our ministry to primary schools
including the Open the Book team
and lunchtime chaplaincy.
(Anglican Church of Canada).

Thursday 19 Flegg Parishes Team Ministry South

South Clippesby, Martham,
Repps, Thurne. Clergy: Phil Rodd,
Deborah Walton, Jo Wood. LLM:
Alison Taggart.

For a great opportunity for our six
small congregations to reach out
with Christ's light and life.

Diocese of Eastern and Western
Kowloon (Hong Kong).

Friday 20 Flegg Parishes Team Ministry East

East Ormesby St Margaret,
Ormesby St Michael, Rollesby.
Clergy: Jo Wood, Deborah Walton,
Phil Rodd. LLM: Maragaret Parish.

For the profile of our churches to
be raised within our communities
and for closer partnerships with
community groups.

Saturday 21 Gorleston St Andrew

Gorleston St Andrew, Cliff Park
Community Church. Clergy: Shaula
Reilly, Derek McLean LLMs: Melvyn
Reid, Tracy Mayne.

For all those visiting for Christmas
services over the next few days
including the pop up nativity on
Christmas Eve, and for our new
monthly intergenerational service.

Diocese of Krishna-Godavari
(Church of South India).

Sunday 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Eternal God,
As Mary waited for the birth of
your Son,
So we wait for his coming in glory;
Bring us through the birth pangs of
this present age
To see, with her, our great salvation
In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Monday 23 Gorleston St Mary Madgalene

Clergy: Matthew Price, Karl Ross.
Peterhouse Primary (Gorleston).
Give thanks for contacts made at
Christmas events and pray for the
follow up course in January.
Parish Support Team:
Communications, Liz Humphries,
David Styles, Dani Rice.
Diocese of Kubwa (Church of
Nigeria).

Tuesday 24 Great Yarmouth Team Ministry

Clergy: Simon Ward, Liz Dawes,
Richard Washington. St Nicholas
Priory Primary (Great Yarmouth)
For the work of Pathway Cafe and
Yarmouth and Magdalen Foodbank,
and our outreach through music
and arts.
Diocese of Kuching (Church of the
Province of South East Asia).

Wednesday 25 Christmas Day

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at
heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.
Amen.

Thursday 26 The South Trinity Broads

Clergy: Deborah Walton, Jo Wood.
LLM: Judy Pritchard. Fleggburgh
Primary.
Dioceses of Kumi and Kemasi
(Church of Province of Uganda).

Friday 27 Deanery of Heacham and Rising

Rural Dean: Peter Cook
Diocese of Kurunegala (Church of
Ceylon).

Saturday 28 Castle Rising, Hillington and Sandringham

Castle Rising, Flitcham, Hillington,
Sandringham, Wolferton.
Clergy: Paul Williams.
LLM: Sally Stanton
Flitcham Primary, Sandringham
and West Newton Primary.
Diocese of Kushtia (Church of
Bangladesh).

Open the Book: Bringing the Bible to life

The Bible is leaping to life for children in Happisburgh and Hickling, thanks to a new Open the Book team launched by the Revd Coryn Stanforth, rector of the Coastal Group of Parishes.

She said the children loved joining in as specially trained volunteers presented stories from the Bible – with Noah and his ark a favourite so far.

The sessions, new this school year, take place during collective worship at the Church of England academies in Hickling and Happisburgh.

Coryn, a former teacher, said: "I was keen to develop the relationship between the church and the local schools in the Coastal Group and there has been a strong



feeling that God's hand is guiding this venture.

"I am privileged to have a wonderful ecumenical team who bring the Bible to life for the children. The team have worked incredibly hard making creative props and costumes and bring enthusiasm and joy as we act out Bible stories. It is a privilege to go into school with them.

"The feedback from both schools, children and staff, has been really positive."

Scan the QR code
or visit:
[www.DofN.org/](http://www.DofN.org/PrayerDiary)
PrayerDiary
to read full article.



Sunday 29 – First Sunday of Christmas

God our Father,
In love you sent your Son
That the world may have life:
Lead us to seek him among the
outcast.
And to find him in those in need,
For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Monday 30 Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Sherborne

Clergy: Mark Capron. LLMs:
Neil Adams, Alan Crawshaw.
Dersingham Primary and Nursery,
Ingoldisthorpe Primary
Weekly Youth Cafe for high school
students.
Diocese of Kutgi (Church of Nigeria).

Tuesday 31 Docking, The Birchams, Fring, Stanhoe and Sedgeford

Docking, Fring, Sedgeford, Stanhoe
with Barwick, The Birchams and
Bagthope Clergy: Peter Cook,
Richard Collier LLM: George Eve.
Docking Primary/
Diocese of Kwara (Church of
Nigeria).

Wednesday 1 Heacham

Clergy: Veronica Wilson, Simon
Wilson. LLMs: Steve Cook, Pip
Lawrence, Penelope Sutton.
Our mission and ministry in
2025 that all will feel loved and
welcome.
Diocese of Kwoi (Church of
Nigeria).

Thursday 2 Hunstanton and Saxon Shore

Brancaster, Burnham Deepdale,
Holme-next-the-Sea, Hunstanton,
Hunstanton St Mary, Ringstead,
Thornham, Titchwell with Choseley.
Clergy: James Monro.
Brancaster Primary.
Diocese of Kyoto (Nippon Sei
Ko Kai).

Friday 3 Snettisham

Clergy: Dan Tansey, Peter Cook,
Diocese of Kyushu (Nippon Sei Ko
Kai).

Saturday 4 Deanery of Holt

Rural Dean: David Longe.
Lay Chair: Tricia Temple-Crowe.
Those who are serving as
Authorised Worship Assistants.
Diocese of Lafia (Church of
Nigeria).

Sunday 5 – Second Sunday of Christmas

God our Father,
In love you sent your Son
That the world may have life:
Lead us to seek him among the
outcast.
And to find him in those in need,
For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Monday 6 Epiphany

Creator of the heavens,
Who led the Magi by a star
To worship the Christ-child:
Guide and sustain us,
That we may find our journey's end
In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday 7 Briningham and Briston

Briningham, Brinton, Hunworth,
Stody, Swanton Novers, Thornage,
Briston, Burgh Parva, Hindolveston,
Melton Constable. Clergy: Trudie
Morris. LLM: Carolyn Sexton.
Bishops Graham (Norwich), Jane
(Lynn) and Ian (Thetford).
Diocese of Lagos and of Lagos
Mainland (Church of Nigeria).

Wednesday 8 Glaven Valley

Blakeney, Cley-next-the-Sea,
Glandford, Letheringsett with
Bayfield, Wiveton.
Clergy: Sarah De Bats

For our congregations and
ministry team during this time of
interregnum and also that a new
Rector will be appointed.

Blakeney Primary.

Diocese of Lagos West (Church of
Nigeria).

Thursday 9 Holt w High Kelling

Clergy: Howard Stoker.

LLM: John Allen.

For our authorised pastoral assistants
and our pastoral ministry to those
in need and our outreach to young
families and children in the parish.
Diocese of Lahore (Church of
Pakistan).

Friday 10 Matlaske

Baconsthorpe, Barningham Winter,
Edgefield, Hempstead, Matlaske,
Plumstead, Saxthorpe with
Corpusty. Clergy: David Longe,
Judy Rosser. Diocese of Lainya
(Episcopal Church of South Sudan).

Saturday 11 Stiffkey and Bale

Bale, Binham, Field Dalling,
Gunthorpe, Langham Episcopi,
Morston, Saxlingham, Sharrington,
Stiffkey. Clergy: Ian Whittle. LLM:
Roger Bland. All who take Holy
Communion into people's homes.
Diocese on the Lake (Church of
Nigeria).

Ding Dong Merrily on high, in Heacham a new bell is ringing

Heacham has the oldest bell in Norfolk, and the newest too.

"The new Coronation bell will sound out from St Mary's parish church for Advent and Christmas. It is one of just three bells honouring the coronation of King Charles III in the entire country, and the only coronation bell in Norfolk.

It will ring out for the first time on Advent Sunday on December 1st and will then be rung on Sundays and for other special services.

As the bell was installed the vicar of Heacham, the Revd Veronica Wilson said;

"It lets our village know the church is here. It calls people to worship and reminds us that God is present in this community."

The Coronation Bell replaces the oldest bell in Norfolk, which was cast almost nine centuries ago, around 1150. Broken, and impossible to ring or repair for



many years, the historic bell will be displayed in the church.

The new bell is inscribed with the words: 'Heacham commemorates the Coronation of King Charles III' and is a fitting bell for a village so close to Sandringham.

Revd Veronica said; "The new bell not only celebrates the coronation of King Charles, but it will provide a focal point for village generations to come, once again calling people to worship and mark the high days and holidays and the Church's presence in the life of Heacham."

The church also has a beautiful new cupola on top of its tower, the culmination of a 10 year project.

Scan the QR code
or visit:
www.DofN.org/PrayerDiary
to read full article.



Sunday 12 **The Baptism of Christ**

Heavenly Father,
at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as
your Son: may we recognize him
as our Lord and know ourselves to
be your beloved children; through
Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Monday 13 **Weybourne Group**

Bodham, East with West Beckham,
Kelling, Salthouse, Upper
Sheringham, Weybourne. Clergy:
Ian Dyble, Patricia Wallson, Adrian
Wolton. Kelling Primary. Diocese of
Lango and West Lango (Uganda).

Tuesday 14 **Deanery of Ingworth & Sparham**

Rural Dean: Keith Rengert.
Lay Chair: Kandi Kammoun.

Wednesday 15 **Aylsham & District Team Ministry**

Aldbrough, Aylsham, Badersfield,
Blickling, Brampton, Burgh-next-
Aylsham, Buxton with Oxnead,
Cawston, Haveringland, Heydon,
Itteringham, Lammas, Little
Barningham, Marsham, Oulton SS
Peter and Paul, Wickmere.
Clergy: Julie Boyd, Natalie Rees,
Andrew Whitehead. LLMs:
David Martin, Joy Taylor, Kandi
Kammoun, Fiona Tibbitt.
Aylsham St Michael's Nursery &
Infant, Cawston Primary.

For a new Team Vicar appointment
within the team.

Diocese of Langtang (Nigeria).

Thursday 16 **Coltishall**

Coltishall, Frettenham, Hainford,
Horstead, Stratton Strawless.
Churchwardens and PCC during
the vacancy. Hainford Primary.
Archdeacons Steven, Keith and
Catherine. Diocese of Lebombo
(Mozambique and Angola).

Friday 17 **Reepham & Wensum Valley Team Ministry**

Alderford with Attlebridge,
Bylaugh, Elsing, Great with Little
Witchingham, Lyng, Reepham,
Salle, Sparham, Swannington,
Thurning, Weston Longville w
Morton-on-the-Hill, Wood Dalling.
Clergy: Helen Rengert. LLMs: Sue
Page, Helena Crockford, Jane
McLarty. Great Witchingham
Primary, Lyng Primary. Diocese of
Leeds (Church of England).

Saturday 18 **Scarrowbeck**

Alby, Calthorpe, Erpingham,
Ingworth, Thwaite. Clergy:
Heather Butcher. LLMs: Helen
Burrell, Angela Parkes, Colin Willis.
Erpingham Primary. For the Young
People's choir and for Mini Melodies
the church mums and toddler
music group. Diocese of Leicester
(Church of England).

Sunday 19 – Second Sunday of Epiphany

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past
ages and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday 20 Scottow

Scottow. Churchwardens and
PCC during the vacancy. Diocese
of Lesotho (Anglican Church of
Southern Africa).

During this Week of Prayer for
Christian Unity we pray:
"Almighty God, accept our praise
and thanksgiving for what already
unites us. Hasten the hour when
we will recognise each other in the
one communion you willed and for
which your Son prayed. Blessed be
God, now and forever. Amen."

Tuesday 21 The Heart of Norfolk Team Ministry

Bawdeswell, Billingford, Bintree,
Foulsham, Foxley, Guestwick,
Guist, North Elmham, Stibbard,
Themelthorpe, Twyford, Wood
Norton, Worthing. Richard Turk as
he becomes Curate in Charge of
the newly formed group of parishes
of Foulsham, Foxley, Lyng, Elsing,
Bawdeswell, Bylaugh, Sparham
and Themelthorpe. Clergy: Sally
Kimmis. LLM: Norman Johnson.
North Elmham Primary, Stibbard All

Saints Primary. Diocese of Lexington
(Episcopal Church, USA).

Wednesday 22 Deanery of Loddon

Rural Dean: Rob Baker. Lay Chair:
Genny Godber. Norfolk and
Waveney Churches Together and
all local Churches Together groups.
Diocese of Liberia (Church of the
Province of West Africa).

Thursday 23 Bramerton Group Ministry (Rockland)

Bramerton, Carleton Saint
Peter, Claxton, Kirby Bedon and
Whitlingham, Rockland St Mary,
Surlingham. Clergy: Nick Garrard,
Helen Garrard. All Local Ecumenical
Partnerships. Diocese of Lichfield
(Church of England).

Friday 24 Bramerton Group Ministry (Thurton)

Ashby, Bergh Apton, Framingham
Pigot, Thurton, Yelverton. Clergy:
Chris Ellis. Alington & Bergh
Apton Primary, Thurton Primary.
For the children, youth worker and
volunteers at our Explorers and
HALO youth groups. Diocese of
Lincoln (Church of England).

Saturday 25 Chet Valley

Chedgrave, Hardley, Langley,
Loddon, Sisland. Clergy: Alison Ball,
Jill Haylock. LLM: Belinda Barwick.
Diocese of Litoral Ecuador
(Episcopal Church).

Working together for God's kingdom



Church leaders are celebrating their joint mission by renewing a commitment to unity first made more than 30 years ago.

They will continue working together, sharing gifts and resources, to reach as many people as possible across Norfolk with the good news of the gospel.

The leaders of the seven denominations which make up Churches Together in Norfolk and Waveney - Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, Quaker, Salvation Army and United Reformed - sealed the new declaration of unity with a service of thanksgiving and commitment at Norwich Cathedral in November.

Their priorities include praying and proclaiming the gospel, helping the lost

and vulnerable and serving the disadvantaged, sharing friendship and understanding, and speaking with one voice whenever possible.

The new Church Leaders Declaration of Commitment for Christian Unity acknowledges with thankfulness their common faith and common call to serve in God's mission, the diversity of their traditions and the different gifts each brings. They invite Christians across Norfolk and Waveney to support them in their 'partnership of trust and cooperation' as they serve and witness together.

Scan the QR code
or visit:
[www.DofN.org/
PrayerDiary](http://www.DofN.org/PrayerDiary)
to read full article.



Sunday 26 – Third Sunday of Epiphany

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to
the poor, release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Monday 27 Poringland

Framingham Earl, Howe, Poringland.
Clergy: Robert Parsonage, Rachel
Foster, Kirsty Long.

For people to come to faith in
Jesus through the Alpha Course
and follow up teaching. Diocese of
Liverpool (Church of England).

Tuesday 28 Venta Group

Arminghall, Caistor St Edmund,
Stoke Holy Cross. Clergy: Rob
Baker, Kirsty Long, Lynn Marsh.
Sacristans, vergers, servers and all
who prepare churches for worship.
Diocese of Liwolo (Episcopal
Church of South Sudan).

Wednesday 29 Waveney Marshlands

Aldeby, Burgh St Peter, Ellingham,
Geldeston, Gillingham, Haddiscoe,
Kirby Cane, Norton Subcourse,
Ravensingham, Stockton, Thorpe-
next-Haddiscoe, Thurlton,

Toft Monks, Wheatacre.
Clergy: David Smith. Ellingham
Primary, Gillingham Primary.
Diocese of Llandaff (Church in Wales).

Thursday 30 Deanery of Lothlingland

Rural Dean: Helen Jary. Lay Chair:
Jane Tighe. Missionary Area of
Lodwar (Anglican Church of Kenya).

Friday 31 Carlton Colville

Carlton Colville, Mutford. Clergy:
Andrea Woods. LLM: Mark Ellis.
Give thanks for all who attended
services and events during
December. We pray for growth in
our knowledge of and love for God
and one another. As we love and
serve our communities we pray for
in an increase in our relationships
with community groups and
individuals that the Lord would add
to our numbers. Diocese of Lokoja
(Church of Nigeria).

Saturday 1 Hopton, Corton and Gunton

Clergy: Nigel Lacey. LLM: Jackie
Makower. Corton Primary, Hopton
Primary.

For preparation for the retirement
of Revd Nigel Lacey after Easter and
for the parishes here as they enter a
period of vacancy.

Diocese of Lomega (Episcopal
Church of South Sudan).

Sunday 2**Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of
Israel: make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God. Amen.

Monday 3**Kessingland**

Gisleham, Kessingland, Rushmere.
Churchwardens and PCC during
the vacancy. Parish Support Team
– Generous Giving: Robert Culyer,
Colin Tomlin, Naomi Rizk.
Kessingland Primary.
Diocese of London (Church of
England).

Tuesday 4**Kirkley**

Kirkley with Lowestoft Saint John.
Clergy: Helen Chandler. Members
of choirs and singing groups.
Diocese of Long Island (Episcopal
Church, USA).

Wednesday 5**Lowestoft Christ Church**

Clergy: Jon Carter.
LLM: Peter Williams.
Bishops Graham (Norwich),
Jane (Lynn) and Ian (Thetford)
Diocese of Los Angeles (Episcopal
Church, USA).

Thursday 6**Lowestoft St Andrew**

Clergy: Damon Rogers. LLM:
Eileen McMurtry. All who serve as
churchwardens and members of
Parochial Church Councils.
Diocese of Louisiana (Episcopal
Church, USA).

Friday 7**Lowestoft St Margaret**

Clergy: Simon Stokes.
LLM: Gerda Buckley. Organists,
musicians and members of music
groups and bands.
Diocese of Western Louisiana
(Episcopal Church, USA).

Saturday 8**Oulton Broad Team Ministry**

Oulton, Oulton Broad.
Clergy: Helen Jary, Andy Bunter,
Jamie Wyllie. LLMs: Deborah
Allsop, Jill Hunting, Fiona Usher,
Harold Waterman.
For the growth of our youth work.
Diocese of Luapula (Church of the
Province of Central Africa).



Community Connections in King's Lynn

For those suffering with poor mental health, it can be hugely beneficial to join new social groups, explore different places and shake up existing routines. A new initiative in King's Lynn is providing the opportunity to do all three.

Based at St. Faith's Community Hub in the town's Gaywood area, the newly launched Faith in Community Mental Health Support Group has been established to meet the needs of an ever-growing number of local residents suffering through loneliness and isolation.

Drop-in sessions led by specialist facilitators are delivered on alternating Fridays throughout

the year, with attendees invited to access support ranging from a cup of tea and a chat right through to learning strategies to help improve mental health.

Revd Kyla Sorensen, the Team Rector at St. Faith's Church, says she is thrilled to support the project by offering "a home in the heart of Gaywood, so it can reach as many people as possible".

The St Faith's Community Hub was officially opened by the Bishop of Norwich, The Rt Revd Graham Usher, in May 2023 and the new support group is the latest addition to a wide range of mental wellbeing activities hosted in the space.

Scan the QR code
or visit:
[www.DofN.org/](http://www.DofN.org/PrayerDiary)
PrayerDiary
to read full article.



Richard Lamey, new beginnings in Norfolk

Twelve months ago Norfolk was a place I had been to on holiday six times in my life where three friends lived and where Becca, my wife, and Esther, my daughter, helped to lead an annual Christian holiday camp at West Runton every August. Today Norfolk is our home.



In July I took my last service in Wokingham in Berkshire, where I had been Rector for 11 years and Area Dean for six. In August we moved to Hellesdon in NW Norwich and in September I started work as Director of Mission and Ministry. It is my first ever 'office' job after 22 years in parish ministry.

To say that we went through a lot of change in a short period of time would be something of an understatement, not least because only one of our (nearly adult) children moved with us, so we went from being a family

of five to (practically speaking) a family of three.

It has still been a brilliant move for at least three reasons. One is the welcome we have received from so many lovely and generous people wherever we have gone, from Oulton Broad to King's Lynn, from Cromer to Dickleburgh and everywhere in between. The second is that this is just such a special and varied county to live in and such a fascinating and inspiring diocese to be part of. And the third is God's amazing and constant faithfulness, that in

all of these changes and chances we have felt upheld and simply held by our amazing God of faithfulness and love.

We are not the only people to ever move house or get new jobs. We are conscious of our privilege in being able to choose when to move and where to move to. But there is still a real sense that stepping out of our comfort zones into a new adventure in and with God is a time when God's care and provision is more present and more needed than ever. And that the one who calls is always faithful.

As well as finding that I need God more at times of change and challenge, that that is when I am most open to God's grace and mercy, moving across the country has also made me think about how much of the Bible happens on the road and through journeys.

Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem and then flee to Egypt. The magi travel immense distances to the manger and arrive some time after the shepherds have sprinted into town from their hillside duties.

The story of the Good Samaritan, the encounter on the Road to Emmaus, Philip meeting the Ethiopian eunuch, Paul being blown from his horse on the road to Damascus by the force

of Christ's appearance... so many encounters happen on the road and on the way.

Early Christians were actually known as being "followers of the Way" and Jesus said that he himself was the way, the truth and the light.

All of which leads me to three closing thoughts.

If you're travelling this Christmas, whether near or far, look out especially for moments of grace and blessing amid all of the pressures of travelling.

What other examples can you think of where God meets with people on the road, or where a journey is an essential part of the Biblical story?

And think a bit more about what it means to be people of the Way, on the move, guided by the Spirit. We so often think of ourselves as being set in one place, rooted in the landscape, and that too is precious. But we don't follow a static God. Rather we are called to see where God is moving and join in with the ongoing work of the Spirit. Within our rootedness, we are also called to be pilgrims, disciples, people of the way – so what does that suggest about God, and about our openness to adventure and new landscapes, the invitation to Come and follow Jesus?

Sunday 9 – Fourth Sunday before Lent

Lord of the hosts of heaven,
our salvation and our strength,
without you we are lost:
guard us from all that harms or
hurts and raise us when we fall;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Monday 10 Pakefield

Clergy: Sharon Lord.

LLM: Trudie Jackson.

School Uniform Bank as it supports
families in Lowestoft.

Diocese of Lucknow (Church of
North India).

Tuesday 11 Somerleyton

Ashby, Blundeston, Fritton,
Herringfleet, Lound, Somerleyton.
Churchwardens and PCC during
the vacancy. Blundeston Primary.
Diocese of Lui (Episcopal Church of
South Sudan).

Wednesday 12 Deanery of Lynn

Rural Dean: Karlene Kerr.

Archdeacons Steven, Keith and
Catherine.

Diocese of Lusaka (Church of the
Province of Central Africa).

Thursday 13 Gayton, Grimston, Massingham and District Team Ministry

Ashwicken with Leziate, Bawsey
and Mintlyn, Congham, East
Walton, Gayton, Gayton Thorpe,
Great Massingham, Grimston,
Harpley, Little Massingham,
Roydon. Clergy: Sue Martin.

LLM: Joy Smith. Ashwicken Primary,
Gayton Primary, Great Massingham
Primary, Harpley Primary.

Lusitanian Church.

Friday 14 Gaywood

Clergy: Kyla Sorensen. LLM:

Daphne Sampson.

The community hub as a centre
of mission and estates ministry.

Parish Support Team – Care and
Development of Church Buildings:
Nicholas Cannon, Eliza Greenwell,
Margaret Mallett, Frances Jackson,
Nicola Lewis, Anna Venn-Moncur.
Diocese of Luwero (Church of the
Province of Uganda).

Saturday 15 Saint Margaret with Saint Nicholas – King's Lynn Group

Clergy: Mark Dimond, Fiona Munn,
Jon Price. LLMs: Vicki Price,
Andrew Ward. For the Minster@2
Sunday Family Service. Diocese of
Northern Luzon (Episcopal Church
in the Philippines).

Sunday 16 – Third Sunday before Lent

Eternal God,
whose Son went among the
crowds and brought healing
with his touch:
help us to show his love,
in your Church as we
gather together,
and by our lives as they
are transformed
into the image of Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Monday 17 Middlewinch

East Winch with West Bilney,
Middleton, North Runcton, West
Winch and Setchey. Clergy: Riaz
Mubarak. Middleton Primary.
Diocese of Lweru (Anglican Church
of Tanzania).

Tuesday 18 South and West Lynn – King's Lynn Group

Clergy: Adrian Ling. St Michael's
(King's Lynn), Whitefriars Primary
(King's Lynn). People who read
lessons and lead intercessions.
Missionary Area of Macau (Hong
Kong Sheng Kung Hui).

Wednesday 19 St John – King's Lynn Group

Clergy: Karlene Kerr.
LLMs: Joyce Pitcher, David Osborne.
Diocese of Machakos (Anglican
Church of Kenya).

Thursday 20 The Church in the Woottons

Clergy: Churchwardens and PCC
during the vacancy. LLM: Margaret
Ojelade. Parish Support Team –
Human Resources: Claire Stone,
Gemma Waldie.
Diocese of Maciene (Igreja Anglicana
de Mocambique e Angola).

Friday 21 Deanery of Norwich East

Deanery of Norwich East
Rural Dean: Patrick Jordan.
Lay Chair: Catherine Waddams.
Diocese of Madhya Kerala (Church
of South India).

Saturday 22 Colegate & Tombland Norwich

Clergy: Alaric Lewis, Annie Blyth,
Melissa Snell.
LLM: Kevin Mitchelson.
Diocese of Madi and West Nile
(Church of the Province of Uganda).

Racial Justice Toolkit

Anti-Racism Resources for Parishes

Available
Now

Includes
books, films,
podcasts,
resources,
reflections and
theology.



Scan QR code or visit:
www.DofN.org/racialjusticetoolkit
to view the digital version of the
Racial Justice Toolkit.



The Church of England
www.DofN.org/cofe-racial-justice

For more information email us at:
hello@dioceseofnorwich.org
www.dioceseofnorwich.org

"I am delighted to introduce the Diocese of Norwich racial justice toolkit. It is easy to think that racial justice is not an issue in the Diocese of Norwich. But nothing could be further from the truth."

Bishop of Lynn

"The Church of England has for too long spoken about the evil of racism and produced reports and plans that we have failed to implement. The time is now, for a fundamental change of culture. A culture built not on entitlement and selectivity, but on welcome, belonging and inclusivity extended to all."

Racial Justice Officer and The Bishop of Norwich Lead on 'From Lament to Action'

Sunday 23 – Second Sunday before Lent

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Monday 24 Heartsease (Norwich)

Heartsease (Norwich)
Clergy: Patrick Jordan.
LLM: David Lechmere.
The Open Academy.
The Province of Papua New Guinea
and our partnership in the gospel.

Tuesday 25 Lakenham Group (Norwich Lakenham St Mark)

Churchwardens and PCC during
the vacancy. LLM: Paulette Yallop.
Finding new opportunities to build
positive relationships with our
local community.
Dioceses of Madurai-Ramnad and
Madras (Church of South India).

Wednesday 26 Lakenham Group (St John & Tuckswood)

Clergy: Matthew Luscombe.
LLM: Gus Woodcock. Bellringers.
Diocese of Magwi (Episcopal
Church of South Sudan).

Thursday 27 Norwich Cathedral

Clergy: Andrew Braddock, Peter
Doll, Aidan Platten, Andy Bryant.
LLM: Frank Paice.

For the Cathedral priorities:
growing faith, engaging visitors,
serving communities.
Diocese of Mahajanga (Church of
the Province of the Indian Ocean).

Friday 28 St Andrew (Norwich)

Clergy: Martin Young.
To be fruitful as we gather, grow
and go for Christ.
Diocese of Maiduguri (Church of
Nigeria).

Saturday 1 St Giles (Norwich)

Clergy: Alaric Lewis, Annie Blyth,
Melissa Snell.
Flower arrangers.
Diocese of Maine (Episcopal
Church, USA).

YANA

RURAL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

The Bishop's Lent Appeal 2025 will be raising money for YANA

A Norfolk based charity
which provides rural
mental health support via
counselling, training and a
helpline.

For more information, visit:
www.dioceseofnorwich.org

Vision Prayer

Transform us, O Christ, to be more prayerful

– listening, open and responsive,
yearning for God's kingdom come
as you taught us;

to be more pastoral

– reaching out to those in need,
shepherds, like you,
of the lost and the lonely;

to be more prophetic

– heeding the signs of the times,
challenging injustice,
mirroring your radical
inclusivity.

Amen

Did you know you can subscribe to receive Prayer Diary via email here:
www.DofN.org/prayer-diary-digital

If you would like to contribute towards the costs of this
publication visit **www.DofN.org/prayer-diary-donation**

If you have any questions, please email
hello@dioceseofnorwich.org or phone **01603 880853**

Editorial Team: Rowan Mantell, Elizabeth Humphries,
The Revd Canon Sally Theakston

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich

Diocesan House, 109 Dereham Road, Easton, Norwich NR9 5ES
www.dioceseofnorwich.org   
Registered Charity No: 249318