Winter 2026

Prayer Diary

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich



INCLUDES
Prayer requests from clergy across the Diocese of Norwich

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
Matthew 28:19

Transformed by Christ: **Prayerful, Pastoral, Prophetic**

www.dioceseofnorwich.org



Foreword from
the Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Revd Graham Usher

I have had the huge privilege of sharing in worship with other Anglicans under a Baobab tree in Tanzania, amidst the colour and joy of Papua New Guinea, in a gang-controlled shanty town on the outskirts of Lima in Peru, in a butterfly filled clearing in the Amazon, and with sisters in a convent in a South African township.

The Anglican Communion is a beautiful worldwide family of Christians, united in faith and connected through worship, prayer, fellowship, and service. Across continents and cultures, Anglicans gather to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and share God's love with the world.

Together we celebrate the rich heritage of the Anglican tradition, shaped by Scripture, the sacraments, the Book of Common Prayer, and a deep commitment to the life and mission of the Church. From ancient traditions to new expressions of worship, the Anglican Communion reflects the extraordinary diversity of God's people.

When looked at through a global lens, the average Anglican is a young woman under 30, living on very little, in a place of war or emerging from war, and often in a place already facing climate crisis.

Yet, she is also joyous in the Lord, and committed to serving others.

Our Prayer Diary this winter has an international theme.

Throughout the world, Anglican communities contribute to education, healthcare, creation care, social justice, reconciliation, poverty relief, and care for those who are vulnerable or marginalised.

The Anglican Communion is more than a collection of churches; it is a global fellowship called to worship God, serve humanity, and bear witness to Christ. For that, and our common prayer, I give thanks.

+ Graham Norwich

Please note the Prayer Diary is compiled some weeks in advance of distribution. Therefore, during the preparation and time covered by this Prayer Diary, some vacancies will have been filled, clergy may have moved and others will be announced. Please do continue to pray for each parish even if the details have changed.

Over this quarter the Sunday prayers are from the Anglican Church of Canada.

Sunday 29
Advent Sunday

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

Monday 30
Sheringham

Clergy: Christian Heycocks, Iain Grant, Christina Rees.
For our ongoing ministry and mission as an 'Inclusive Church'.
Diocese of Colorado (USA)

Tuesday 1
Trunch Group

Gimingham, Knapton, Mundesley, Paston, Trunch with Bradfield and Swafield. Clergy: Sally Myers.
LLM: Andrea Lee.
Diocese of Congo Brazzaville (Congo)

Wednesday 2
Coastal Group of Parishes

Bacton, Happisburgh, Hempstead with Lessingham and Eccles, Hickling, Ridlington, Sea Palling with Waxham, Walcott, Witton.
Clergy: Coryn Stanforth.
LLM: Pam Millsted, Jeanette Boardman. Happisburgh Primary, Hickling Infant.
Diocese of Connecticut (USA)

Thursday 3
North Walsham, Edingthorpe, Worstead and Westwick

Clergy: David Warner, Dan Krawczyk.
Worstead Primary.
Collation and welcome service for Christopher Bunce as Archdeacon of Norfolk.
Thanksgiving: renewed prayer life and financial stability. Joyful season ahead!
Diocese of Connor (Ireland)

Friday 4
Smallburgh

Dilham, Honing, Smallburgh.
Clergy: Darleen Plattin, Andrew Bevan.
LLM: Betty Lacey.
Bishops Graham (Norwich), Jane (Lynn) and Ian (Thetford).
Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross (Ireland)

Saturday 5
Stalham

Ingham, Stalham, Sutton.
Clergy: Darleen Plattin, Andrew Bevan.
LLM: Mary Shepherd, Martyn Egerton.
Sutton Infant.
Diocese of Costa Rica (Central de America)

Sunday 6
Second Sunday of Advent

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation.
Make us ready for the message that prepares the way,
so that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the coming of Christ,
who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.
Amen.

Monday 7
The United Benefice of King's Beck

Felmingham, Skeyton, Colby, Banningham, Tuttington, Suffield, Sloley, Swanton Abbott.
Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy.
Diocese of Coventry (England)

Tuesday 8
United Benefice of St Benedict

Ashmanhaugh, Barton Turf, Beeston St Lawrence, Horning, Irstead, Neatishead.
Clergy: Ben Bradshaw.
LLM: Pauline Simpson.
Neatishead Primary.
Diocese of Cuba (Episcopal Church, USA)

Wednesday 9
Waterside Group

Catfield, Ludham, Potter Heigham.
Clergy: Gary Noyes.
LLMs: Rosalind Bingham, Judith Gardiner. Catfield Primary.
For our local mission initiatives in this part of the Norfolk Broads, and for the building of a strong team.
Diocese of Cueibet (South Sudan)

Thursday 10
Wroxham with Hoveton

Saint John with Hoveton Saint Peter, Belaugh and Tunstead with Sco' Ruston.
Clergy: Liz Jump.
Diocese of Cuernavaca (de Mexico)

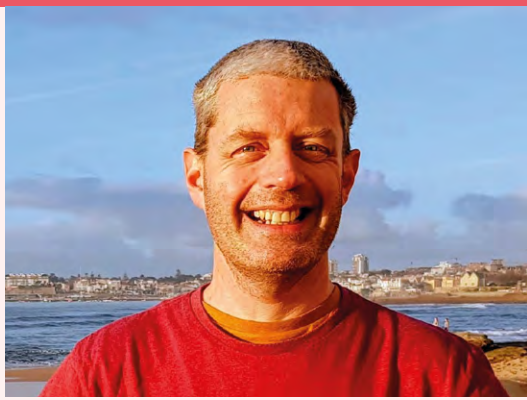
Friday 11
Deanery of Thetford and Rockland

Rural Dean: Matthew Jackson.
Lay Chair: Peter Lotarius.
Diocese of Cuttack (North India)

Saturday 12
Attleborough with Besthorpe

Clergy: Matthew Jackson, Andrew Slater, Tom Stockwell.
LLMs: Brenda Greig, Jane Minchin.
For our work with schools; through assemblies and music.
Diocese of Cyangugu (du Rwanda)

Similarities between Norfolk and Portugal? Ask Revd Iain Bendrey



People ask: "Why choose Norfolk after Portugal? Surely there is a massive difference."

Well yes, but when it comes to Children, Youth and Young Adults ministry, it really isn't that different.

Firstly, geography. Portugal, and mainland Europe, is huge, but getting from Lynn to Lowestoft could take as long as London to Lisbon!

Secondly, in both Portugal and Norfolk and Waveney it can be hard for children and youth workers to meet people in similar roles.

Thirdly, young people in Europe and Norfolk crave community.

Finally, many churches across Europe are wrestling with growing older, but wanting to grow younger.

So, the difference isn't that different at all; that's what excites me.

Please pray for:

- Our amazing volunteers and workers, that we can connect them to each other.
- Our fab young people, especially those who feel lonely and isolated, that they can be connected into a thriving community where their faith is nurtured and they can grow as active disciples.
- Our churches, that there will be a desire and energy to reach out into the community and grow younger.
- Matt, Cathryn and myself as we work to develop a strategy to support churches to grow younger, and young people to grow deeper in their faith!

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

Sunday 13
Third Sunday of Advent

God of light, who sent the Baptist to offer hope and to face the world's scorn: open our ears to hear the cries from the margins, exposing our fears, sharpening our vision and calling us to faith; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen.

Monday 14
Guiltcross Group

Blo Norton, Garboldisham, Kenninghall, Riddlesworth.
Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy. LLM: Jo Hayward.
Garboldisham Primary.
Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf (Jerusalem and The Middle East)

Tuesday 15
Hethersett

Great Melton, Little Melton, Hethersett.
Clergy: Damon Rogers.
Hethersett Primary.
Meeting of Bishop's Staff.
Diocese of Daejeon (Korea)

Wednesday 16
Quidenham Group

Banham, Eccles, New Buckenham, Old Buckenham, Quidenham, Wilby.
Clergy: Sarah Walsh. Archdeacons Keith (Norwich), Catherine (Lynn), Christopher (Norfolk).
Diocese of North Dakota (USA)

Thursday 17
The Benefice of Great Ellingham

High Oak, Hingham, Little Ellingham, Rockland All Saints, Rockland St Peter and Scoulton with Wood Rising.
Clergy: Tori Venmore-Rowland, Stella Green. LLMs Carol Bennett, Dale Southall. Morley Primary.
Dioceses of South Dakota and of Dallas (USA)

Friday 18
Anglican Chaplaincy in Moscow

Malcolm Rogers, formerly Anglican Chaplain – Please pray for healing for what is now a very divided Anglican community at St Andrews (not caused but not helped by the political situation), for hope for those who see no hope, for divided families, and at least an end of the killing. 'In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death and guide our feet into the way of peace'.

Saturday 19
Thetford Team Ministry

Cloverfield Community Church, Croxton, Kilverstone, Thetford, Wretham w Illington.
Clergy: Peter Herbert, Matt Houghton, Tony Heywood.
Bishop's Primary (Thetford).
Dioceses of Damaturu (Nigeria) and Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania)



Christmas in Luleå, Jolly Jul

Tree-plundering parties, a saint with a crown of candles, rice pudding and Donald Duck are just some of the ways Christmas is celebrated in Sweden.

With the Diocese of Norwich linked to Luleå, we asked about Christmas, or Jul, in Sweden.

Some traditions including midnight mass are familiar; others are surprisingly different.

On December 13 churches hold St Lucy's Day processions, led by a white-clad girl with a crown of candles – celebrating the triumph of light over darkness and 4th century martyr St Lucy who brought food to Christians hiding in the Roman catacombs, lighting her way with a candlelit headdress.

Presents are opened on Christmas Eve, with gifts brought by a Swedish cousin of Father Christmas called Jultomte, who knocks on the door to ask: "Are there any good children here?"

The main meal, served on Christmas Eve, often includes picked herrings, meatballs, sausages, reindeer, beetroot salad and potato and anchovy casserole. Dessert is rice pudding – with a prize for whoever finds the hidden almond.

And at 3pm millions of Swedes turn on the television for the 1958 Disney film Donald Duck and His Friends Wish You a Merry Christmas.

Christmas trees traditionally stay up until January 13 when any remaining edible decorations are devoured by children at 'tree plundering' parties.

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

Sunday 20
Fourth Sunday of Advent

O God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption in the coming of the Saviour.
Make our hearts leap with joy and fill our mouths with songs of praise, so that we may announce glad tidings of peace and welcome your Christ into our midst.
Amen.

Monday 21
Diocese of Luleå

Par Parbring, Bishop's Chaplain – For our election of a new bishop this coming Spring and our processes of reconciliation with the Sami people and with the Qwens.

Tuesday 22
Wymondham w Silfield and Spooner Row

Clergy: Andrew Hammond, Sam Ruddock.
LLM: Margaret Hartley.
Our new Sunday evening services, especially our Tea Time Family Service.
Diocese of Davao (Philippines)

Wednesday 23
Deanery of Blofield

Rural Dean: Dave Hanson.
Diocese of Saint Davids (Wales)

Thursday 24
Acle and Bure to Yare

Acle, Beighton w Moulton, Freethorpe, Halvergate w Tunstall, Limpenhoe, Southwood and Cantley, Reedham, Wickhampton.
Clergy: Martin Greenland.
LLM: Nicholas Cowen.
Society of the Sisters of Bethany.
Acle Primary.
Diocese of Delaware (USA)

Friday 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.
Diocese of Delhi (North India)

Saturday 26
Blofield and Broadside

Blofield, Burlingham Saint Andrew w Saint Peter, Hemblington, Ranworth w Panxworth, South Walsham, Upton and Fishley, Woodbastwick.
Clergy: Andrew Tapsell, Cheryl Ramballi. LLM: Margaret Mallett.
Fairhaven Primary (South Walsham).
God's vision for our benefice, our new family service and Revd Pat Atkinson's ministry in India.
Diocese of Derby (England)



Feliz Natal

Nadolig Llawen

Joyeux Noël

Frohe Weihnachten

The Diocese of Norwich
wishes you joy, peace and every blessing
this Christmas and throughout
the coming year

Feliz Navidad

圣诞快乐

Happy Christmas

Crăciun Fericit

Buon Natale

Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia

З Різдвом Христовим

Sunday 27
First Sunday of Christmas

God of glory, you have given us a new name and robed us in salvation. May we like Anna find our home in your presence and like Simeon recognize Jesus as the Christ, so that, in joy and thanksgiving at becoming your children, we may join with all creation to sing your praise. Amen.

Monday 28
Province of Papua New Guinea

Lynn Fry, Chair of PNG Group: "We continue to pray for transport links in the country. Priests have very large areas to cover either by motorboat or by walking. We are also praying for Popondetta and the coast where a group called the 'Don't Care Gang' have been terrorising the villages along the coast which illustrates sadly the lawlessness which is growing among young people coming into towns and unable to find work."

Tuesday 29
Great and Little Plumstead, Rackheath with Salhouse and Witton

Clergy: Naomi Tuma.
LLM: James Watts. Salhouse Primary.
Dioceses of Dhaka(Bangladesh) and Derry and Raphoe (Ireland)

Wednesday 30
Lingwood

Burlingham, Hassingham, Lingwood, Strumpshaw.
Clergy: Jane Morris.
LLM: Lorna Clark.
Diocese of San Diego (USA)

Thursday 31
Yare Valley Churches

Brundall, Braydeston and Postwick.
Clergy: David Hanson.
LLM: Keith Gerrard.
Give thanks for new people coming through Alpha and that they may continue to grow in faith.
Diocese of Divine Hope (Angola)

Friday 1
Deanery of Breckland

Rural Dean: For the person to be appointed and commissioned as Rural Dean.
Diocese of Dogura (PNG)

Saturday 2
Watton with Carbrooke

Clergy: Dave Cossey, Bassem Sawieres.
LLMs: Elaine Rodgers, Weiwei Cossey.
St Peter & St Paul Carbrooke.
Diocese of Doko (Nigeria)

Sunday 3
Epiphany Sunday
Almighty and everliving God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service. Amen.

Monday 4
Ashill Group
Ashill, Carbrooke, Ovington, Saham Toney.
Clergy: Patrick Morrow.
LLM: Jean Rockett-Woods.
Ashill Primary, Parker's Primary.
That we grow together as a Group.
Diocese of Dominican Republic (Episcopal Church, USA)

Tuesday 5
Hilborough Group
Cockley Cley, Foulden, Gooderstone, Great Cressingham, Hilborough.
Clergy: Michael Chesher, Linda Lubbe. Gooderstone Primary.
Diocese of Dornakal (South India)

Wednesday 6
Mundford
Cranwich, Ickburgh, Langford, Mundford.
Clergy: Michael Chesher, Linda Lubbe. Mundford Primary.
Bishops Graham (Norwich), Jane (Lynn) and Ian (Thetford).
Diocese of Down and Dromore (Ireland)

Thursday 7
Nar Valley
Castle Acre, Narborough w Narford, Newton-by-Castle Acre, Pentney, Southacre, Westacre.
Clergy: Angela Hammett, Richard Howells.
LLM: Chris Hammett.
Castle Acre Primary, Narborough Primary.
Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough (Ireland)

Friday 8
Necton
Holme Hale, Necton, North Pickenham, South Pickenham.
Clergy: Stephen Thorp.
LLMs: Carole Hicks, Susan March.
Necton Primary.
Diocese of Duk (South Sudan)

Saturday 9
Oxborough Group
Bodney, Didlington, Little Cressingham, Oxborough,
Clergy: Michael Chesher, Linda Lubbe.
Diocese of Dunedin (Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia)

Young Pilgrims journey to Taize to take part in a simple daily pattern of life and worship



Taizé, in France, is a small village which is home to an ecumenical monastic community of brothers with a particular ministry to young people.

They welcome hundreds, often thousands, of young adults a week to join their rhythm of life and prayer.

Our diocese runs an annual pilgrimage to Taizé and I was delighted to help lead this year's pilgrimage in July.

The daily pattern of life at Taizé involves worship, bible study with people from all over the world, shared meals and helping with the daily running of the site.

The style of worship is characterised by the singing of their famous chants and by extended periods of silence.

In a volatile world their simple daily rhythm of life is deeply attractive to many, and this was certainly the case for the young pilgrims on this year's trip.

There is an acceptance and openness which extends a warm welcome to both 'established' Christians and to those who are curious or seeking something more.

The ecumenical nature of the community underpins the sense that what one encounters here is a glimpse of what the church can be at its best: a place of encounter with Christ where human divisions seem to fade away in His presence.

I would encourage anyone who might like to join the 2027 pilgrimage, or knows of someone who may be interested, to find out more at **www.DofN.org/taize**

Revd Andrew Tapsell
Rector of the Blofield and Broadside benefice

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

Sunday 10
Baptism of Christ

God of glory,
immerse us in your grace,
mark us with your image,
and raise us to live our baptismal promises, so that, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we may follow the example of Christ your beloved in whose name we pray. Amen.

Monday 11
Swaffham and Sporle

Sporley w Great and little Palgrave, Swaffham.
Clergy: Nigel Tuffnell.
LLM: Andy Mash.
Heartwood Primary & Nursery, Sporle Primary, Swaffham Junior.
Music in church for worship and community, especially children's choir.
Diocese of Dunkwa-on-Offin (West Africa)

Tuesday 12
The Fountain of Life

FOL Swaffham, FOL Ashill.
Clergy: Paul Wilkinson, Rob Baker.
Revive your people, Holy Spirit, with courage, compassion and unwavering faith.
Diocese of Durgapur (North India)

Wednesday 13
Threxton

Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy.
Diocese of Durham (England)

Thursday 14
Wayland Group

Breckles, Caston, Great Hockham, Griston, Merton, Stow Bedon, Sturston, Thompson, Tottington.
Clergy: Vanessa Layfield.
Caston Primary.
Diocese of Dutse (Nigeria)

Friday 15
Deanery of Burnham and Walsingham

Rural Dean: David Longe.
Lay Chair: Anne Prentis.
Archdeacons Keith (Norwich), Catherine (Lynn), Christopher (Norfolk). Diocese of East Kerala (South India)

Saturday 16
Coxford Group

East Raynham, East Rudham, Helhoughton, Houghton next Harpley, South Raynham, Tatterford, Tattersett, Toftrees.
Clergy: Clive Wylie, Edward Gunn.
Rudham Primary.
Diocese of Easton (USA)

Sunday 17
Second Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
Transform the poverty of our nature
by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Monday 18
Creakes

North Creake, Sculthorpe,
South Creake, Syderstone.
Clergy: Clive Wylie.
Sculthorpe Primary.
Diocese of Eau Claire (USA).

Beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with the theme 'Do not be afraid little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom.'

Tuesday 19
Fakenham

Clergy: Tracy Jessop.
LLM: Elaine Burbidge.
For nurturing relationships and deepening discipleship for all who love Jesus.
Meeting of Bishop's Staff.
Diocese of Central Ecuador (Episcopal Church, USA)

Wednesday 20
Fulmodeston with Croxton

Clergy: Tracy Jessop.
Give thanks for the warmth and friendship of our village community.
Diocese of Edinburgh (Scotland)

Thursday 21
Hempton

Clergy: Andrew Bishop.
A spirit of encouragement and hope in ministry and mission to Hempton rooted in our worship.
Diocese of Edmonton (Canada)

Friday 22
Holkham

Holkham, Warham, Wells-next-the-Sea, Wighton. Clergy: Sharon Plant.
Diocese of Saint Edmundsbury and Ipswich (England)

Saturday 23
The Burnhams

Burnham Market, Burnham Overy, Burnham Sutton cum Ulph, Burnham Thorpe.
Clergy: Malcolm Rogers.
Diocese of Egba (Nigeria).

A Syrian Orthodox Prayer

O Good Shepherd– who went in search of sheep that strayed from the flock and was lost.
O seek for me – who am lost like the one coin out of ten, which the woman lost and did seek.
Because you are he who finds those who are lost.
Halleluiah. Praise be to you.



Papua New Guinea: Reaching out around the world

Norwich's links with Papua New Guinea began when a Norfolk parish priest became the country's first Archbishop.

The Bishop of Norwich's Lent Appeal regularly supports PNG, with people across the diocese raising money for church, health and educational projects.

The 2026 Lent Appeal helped fund water tanks and accommodation at a school of education and theology.

The Revd Lynn Fry, of East Harling, and her husband Tony, spent three years teaching in PNG, culminating in the building of a new church. She said donations from the Diocese of Norwich can also buy sewing machines for graduating priests, and their families, to help them make their own clothes and earn extra money.

The link began with David Hand, whose father was vicar of Tatterford, near Fakenham. David became the first Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea in 1977. Another Norfolk priest, Peter Fox, who was ordained in Norwich Cathedral and served in Wymondham and Lakenham, became bishop of the Papua New Guinea capital, Port Moresby.

Lynn said current prayer needs are for transport links as PNG priests have very large areas to cover on foot and by boat, and for the coastal area of Popondetta, being terrorised by a gang.

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

Sunday 24
Third Sunday of Epiphany

God of salvation, the splendour of your glory dispels the darkness of earth, for in Christ we see the nearness of your kingdom.
Now make us quick to follow him, and eager to proclaim the good news of the gospel.
Amen.

Monday 25
The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

Clergy: Ben Eadon
For the new pilgrimage season.
Diocese of Egba-West (Nigeria)

Tuesday 26
Toftrees

Clergy: Clive Wylie, Edward Gunn.
Diocese of Egbu (Nigeria)

Wednesday 27
Upper Wensum Village Group

Brisley, Colkirk w Oxwick w Pattesley, Gateley, Great Ryburgh w Little Ryburgh and Testerton, Horningtoft, Shereford w Dunton, Whissonsett,
Clergy: Robin Stapleford, Rhona McEune.
Brisley Primary, Colkirk Primary.
Diocese of Egypt (Alexandria)

Thursday 28
Walsingham

East, North and West Barsham, Houghton, Little Walsingham.
Clergy: Andrew Bishop.
The Society of Saint Margaret.
Walsingham Primary.
A spirit of encouragement and hope in ministry and mission to Walsingham, Houghton St Giles and the Barshams rooted in our worship.
Diocese of Eha-Amufu (Nigeria)

Friday 29
Way-Marker Benefice

Barney, Great Snoring, Hindringham, Kettlestone and Pensthorpe, Little Snoring, Thursford.
Clergy: Robin Stapleford, Rhona McEune. LLM: Amanda Sands.
Hindringham Primary.
Diocese of Ekiti (Nigeria)

Saturday 30
Deanery of Depwade

Rural Dean: For the person to be appointed and commissioned as Rural Dean.
Diocese of Ekiti Kwara (Nigeria)

Sunday 31
Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

God of liberation, who comes not to destroy but to set us free, bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion;
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Monday 1
Brooke

Brooke, Kirstead, Mundham w Seething, Thwaite.
Clergy: Austin Uzoigwe, Susanna Gunner.
LLMs: John Ash, Tim Francis, Liam Pilgrim. Brooke Primary.
For a deepening sense of walking together and growing in faith with the Brooke Benefice.
Diocese of Ekiti Oke (Nigeria)

Tuesday 2
Hempnall Group of Parishes

Bedingham, Hempnall, Morningthorpe and Fritton, Shelton w Hardwick, Topcroft, Woodton. Clergy: Austin Uzoigwe, Michael Windridge, Susanna Gunner.
LLMs: Tim Francis, Liam Pilgrim
For a deepening sense of walking together and growing in faith.
Diocese of Ekiti West (Nigeria)

Wednesday 3
Mulbarton

Bracon Ash, Flordon, Hethel, Mulbarton. Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy.
Bishops Graham (Norwich), Jane (Lynn) and Ian (Thetford).
Diocese of Eldoret (Kenya)

Thursday 4
Tas Valley Benefice

Clergy: Dawn Davidson, Rachel Hayden. LLM: Lesley Cox.
Newton Flotman Primary, Preston Primary (Tasburgh).
Diocese of Port Elizabeth (Southern Africa)

Friday 5
Pilgrim Benefice with Wacton

Bunwell, Great Moulton, Aslacton, Carleton Rode, Tibenham, Wacton Magna. Clergy: John Madinda. Carleton Rode Primary.
For our work across our communities during our benefice reorganisation.
Diocese of El-Obeid (Sudan)

Saturday 6
Long Stratton and Tharston

Stratton St Mary, Stratton St Michael, Tharston. Clergy: Becki Bensusan. LLM: John Hooper.
St Mary's Junior (Long Stratton).
For community cohesion and the Church's work with the most vulnerable in our area.
Diocese of Ely (England)

The gospel is as true in Russia as rural Norfolk



Before the Revd Canon Malcolm Rogers became Vicar of the Burnham benefice he spent six years as Anglican chaplain in Moscow.

His congregation included diplomats, business people, students, young Russians who wanted to speak English, and UK and US migrants living in Russia.

"My most memorable congregation was an 8am service where, in a small congregation, I had MI5, CIA, their FSB minders and two others," said Malcolm.

He studied Russian at school and loved the Russian people, the really cold winters, and working with the 'incredibly supportive' Russian Orthodox priests – but for the final 16 months of his time there, Russia was at war with Ukraine. Malcolm said it has brought immense suffering to the people of Ukraine, pain to the many young people in his Moscow congregation opposed to the war, and the deaths of up to a million mainly young men.

Moving from a capital city which was the focus of world attention to rural north Norfolk was a huge change – but Malcolm says the central truth remains: "A recognition that the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, crucified and risen, is as real, relevant and powerful in changing lives in Moscow as it is in Burnham Market."

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

Sunday 7
Sunday next before Lent

Holy God, on the mountaintop you revealed your glory in Christ and split the darkness with your radiant light. Brighten our vision so that we may see your presence in the world and be transformed into the likeness of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Monday 8
Upper Tas Valley

Fundenhall, Ashwellthorpe, Forncett, Hapton, Tacolneston, Wreningham. Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy.

Tuesday 9
Deanery of Dereham in Mitford

Rural Dean: Paul Cubitt.
Lay Chair: Clarke Willis.
Honingham – Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy.
Diocese of Embu (Kenya)

Wednesday 10
Ash Wednesday
Dereham & District Team Ministry

Beetley w East Bilney, East Bradenham w West Bradenham, Dereham, Hoe, Scarning, Shipdham, Swanton Morley. Clergy: Paul Cubitt, Michael Newey, Laura Purnell. LLMs: Helen Jeckells, Evelyn Speed, Lydia Crick. Dereham Infant & Nursery, Dereham Junior, Swanton Morley Primary, Thomas Bullock Primary (Shipdham).
Dioceses of Enugu and of Enugu North (Nigeria)

Thursday 11
Easton

Bawburgh, Colton, Easton, Marlingford. Clergy: Laura Montgomery. St Peter's Primary (Easton). Archdeacons Keith (Norwich), Catherine (Lynn), Christopher (Norfolk).
Diocese of Esan (Nigeria)

Friday 12
Barnham Broom & Upper Yare

Barford, Barnham Broom w Bickerston, Brandon Parva, Carleton Forehoe, Cranworth w Letton and Southburgh, Garvestone, Hardingham, Kimberley, Reymerston, Runhall w Coston, Thuxton, Whinburgh w Westfield, Wramplingham. Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy. LLM: Mary Weatherstone. Barnham Broom Primary.
Diocese of Eswatini (Southern Africa)

Saturday 13
Launditch & 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: Kevin Blogg.
Diocese of Etche (Nigeria)

Sunday 14
First Sunday in Lent

God of the wilderness, your Son battled with the powers of darkness and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these forty days to grow in wisdom and prayer,
so that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Monday 15
Mattishall & Tudd Valley

East Tuddenham, Hockering, Mattishall, North Tuddenham, Welbourne, Yaxham.
Clergy: Kirsty Long. LLMs: Alan Cossey, Jacqueline Crisp, Mel Stevenson. Hockering Primary, Yaxham Primary.
For the benefice as they continue to grow links with the local community.
Diocese of Etsako (Nigeria)

Tuesday 16
Deanery of Great Yarmouth

Rural Dean: David Wells.
Lay Chair: Pam Spychal.
Diocese in Europe (England)

A prayer for the Anglican communion

God of earth and heaven, the One in whom we live and move and have our being, guide and equip the Churches of the Anglican Communion as they proclaim the Good News of your kingdom in faith and life, and so reveal the truth of your loving presence, a truth that sets us free; through your Son and in your Spirit today, tomorrow and in years to come.
Amen

Wednesday 17
Belton and Burgh Castle

Clergy: Iain Robertson.
LLMs: James Channell, Mary Ives.
Moorlands Primary (Belton).
Diocese of Evo (Nigeria)

Thursday 18
Bradwell

Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy.
LLM: Wendy Bircham
Homefield Primary (Bradwell).
Diocese of Exeter (England)

Friday 19
Caister

Clergy: David Wells, Gaynor Sutton.
Pray for all the overseas links maintained by parishes in the diocese.
Diocese of Ezo (South Sudan)

Saturday 20
Gorleston St Andrew

Gorleston St Andrew, Cliff Park Community Church
Clergy: Shaula Reilly, Derek McClean.
Diocese of Faisalabad (Pakistan)

From Nigeria to Norfolk (via Ukraine and the Netherlands)

The Revd Austin Uzoigwe is priest-in-charge of the Brooke Benefice and Hempnall Group.

Born into a devout Anglican family in Nigeria, his faith developed into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

He travelled to Ukraine to study, becoming involved with the organisation Christian Business International in Kharkov. Next he moved to Amsterdam, joining a church where he met his Dutch wife, Annette, and served in many different roles ranging from cleaner to youth leader and preacher to church planter.

He worked as a logistics manager for an international company and set up a business exporting goods to Nigeria and other African countries. He also felt a calling to serve God in a deeper way, gradually discovering his vocation for ordained ministry.

After training in the Netherlands and the UK he served his curacy in Essex before moving to Norfolk.

"I enjoy bringing people together through food, sharing the life-changing message of Jesus Christ



and living close to nature in the beautiful Norfolk countryside," said Austin, who is a member of the Diocese of Norwich's Racial Justice Action Group and a chaplain to Norfolk Police.

He hopes his experiences help him bring communities together while serving God, sharing the love of Christ and building God's kingdom.

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

Sunday 21
Second Sunday in Lent

Faithful God, may we set our minds and wills to yours, and take up our cross, following Christ with confidence for the glory you reveal in him; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Monday 22
Gorleston St Mary Magdalene

Clergy: Matthew Price.
Peterhouse Primary (Gorleston).
Pray for our Easter outreach events, especially amongst families and young people.
Diocese of False Bay (Southern Africa)

Tuesday 23
Great Yarmouth Team Ministry

Clergy: Simon Ward, Jassica Castillo-Burley, Richard Washington.
St Nicholas Priory Primary (Great Yarmouth).
For ReNew, our new service. For our work with children and young people.
Diocese of Fianarantsoa (Indian Ocean)

Wednesday 24
The Flegg Parish Churches Team Ministry: Flegg North

Horsey, Martham, Repps cum Bastwick, West Somerton, Winterton on Sea. Clergy: Deborah Walton, Jo Wood, Hannah Morris. LLMs: Cheryl Lowe, Margaret Parish, Celia Donald.
For our Open the Book Teams going into the primary schools in our benefice.
Diocese of Florida (USA)

Thursday 25
The Flegg Parish Churches Team Ministry: Flegg South

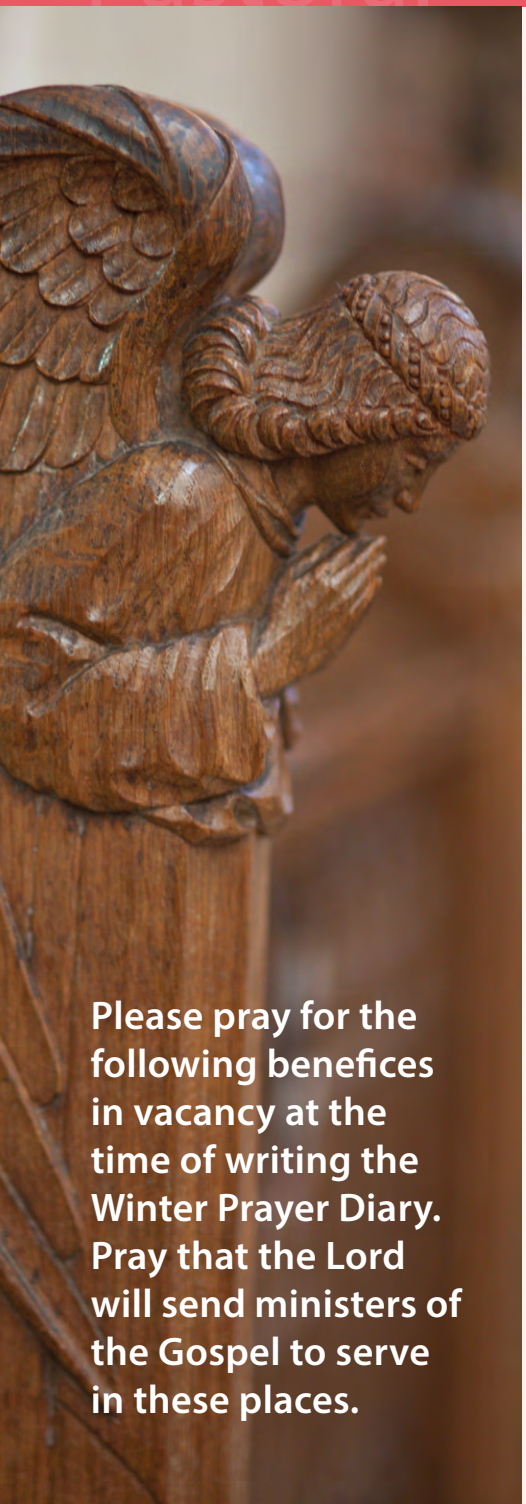
Billockby, Clippesby, Fleggburgh, Runham, Stokesby, Thurne.
Fleggburgh Primary.
Clergy: Deborah Walton, Jo Wood, Hannah Morris. LLMs: Cheryl Lowe, Margaret Parish, Celia Donald.
For churchwardens during the Team Vicar vacancy, benefice authorised worship assistants, those discerning their vocation, and those undertaking training courses.
Diocese of Central Florida (USA)

Friday 26
The Flegg Parish Churches Team Ministry: Flegg East

Filby, Mautby, Ormesby St Margaret, Ormesby St Michael, Rollesby and Thrigby.
Clergy: Jo Wood, Deborah Walton, Hannah Morris. LLMs: Cheryl Lowe, Margaret Parish, Celia Donald.
For Lent study groups and lunches across the benefice.
Diocese of Southeast Florida (USA)

Saturday 27
Deanery of Heacham and Rising

Rural Dean: Mark Capron.
Diocese of Southwest Florida (USA)



Please pray for the following benefices in vacancy at the time of writing the Winter Prayer Diary. Pray that the Lord will send ministers of the Gospel to serve in these places.

Archdeaconry of Norwich

- Bowthorpe LEP
- St Helen's Norwich

- Earlham (Associate Vicar & UEA Chaplain)

Archdeaconry of Norfolk

- Dickleburgh
- Bradwell
- Upper Tas Valley
- Lowestoft St Andrew and Kirkley
- Mulbarton
- United Benefice of King's Beck
- Venta Group

- Oulton Broad (Team Vicar)
- Flegg Group (Team Vicar)

Archdeaconry of Lynn

- Briston and Briningham
- Quintet
- South & West Lynn
- Middlewinch
- Barnham Broom & Upper Yare
- Launditch & The Upper Nar
- Heart of Norfolk

- Launditch & The Upper Nar (HfD Team Vicar)
- Dereham and District Team Ministry (Team Vicar)
- Hunstanton and Saxon Shore (Team Vicar)



Christmas message

The Church of England's theme for Christmas this year focuses on the first and greatest Christmas gift of all: the gift of God being born as one of us in Jesus Christ. The Gift of Christmas invites us to join with our communities this Advent and Christmas:

- to **celebrate** the great gift God offers to each one of us in the birth of Jesus
- to **receive** that gift – and all God gives to us – with gratitude and joy, and
- to **respond** to God's generosity by serving others, especially those in need.

Lent Appeal

The Bishop's Lent Appeal 2027 is raising money for the Sue Lambert Trust. More information is available at **www.DofN.org/lent**

Thank you to anyone who is planning Lent lunches or fundraising activities on behalf of this Appeal.

Sue Lambert Trust

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**

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Diocese of Norwich

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Registered Charity No: 249318