

This week ...

“Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.” (Matthew 24.22)

There is nothing unexpected about Advent and the coming Christmas season, which is heralded all around us, yet what Advent points to remains a surprise which calls us to faithful vigilance; this season let's pray for our readiness for all that Christ seeks to do in and through us.

1 ANDREW THE APOSTLE

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane (Scottish Episcopal Church)
Diocese of Porvoo (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland)
- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Ruaha (Tanzania)
Bp Joseph Mgomi
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
Bishop Helen-Ann, Bishop of Newcastle and Bishop Mark, Bishop of Berwick
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Area Dean: Chris Grocock
Lay Chair: Janice Robinson

2 Tuesday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Rumbek (South Sudan)
Most Revd Alapayo Manyang Kuctiel
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all those at Church House and Bishop's House who support the Bishops' work
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Deanery Secretary: Val Pope
Finance Officer: Linda Rudd

3 Wednesday

Francis Xavier, missionary, apostle of the Indies, 1552

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Rumonge (Burundi)
Bp Pedaculi Birakengana
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For Richard Whaite, Director of Mission and Ministry
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Ashington
Vicar: Chris Grocock
Assistant Curate: Allison Harding
Reader: Paulette Thompson

4 Thursday

John of Damascus, monk, teacher of the faith, c.749

Nicholas Ferrar, deacon, founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Rupert's Land (Canada)
Bp Naboth Manzongo
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
Archdeacons Rachel Wood (Northumberland) and Catherine Sourbut Groves (Lindisfarne)
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Bolam with Whalton & Hartburn with Meldon
Rector: Elaine Jones
- **The Mothers' Union**
We pray this month for all Mothers' Union groups in the diocese, and for their leaders.

5 Friday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Rutana (Burundi)
Bp Pontien Ribakare
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For the work of education throughout our diocese and region in schools, universities, colleges and lay education
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
St Andrew's Church, Bolam

6 Saturday

Nicholas, bishop of Myra, c.326 [*]

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Ruvuma (Tanzania)
Bp Raphael Haule
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For Newcastle Cathedral, and its worship, mission and ministry in the Diocese and city
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
St Andrew's Church, Hartburn
- * Lee Batson, Dean of Newcastle

Today, at the Patronal Festival in the Cathedral, the Bishop and Dean will install four new non-Residentiary Canons: Jacqueline Atkinson, Hannah Cleugh, Chris Elder and Nigel Taylor.

This week ...

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” (Matthew 3:3)

The point of paths being made straight in Isaiah's prophecy, quoted by Matthew, is so God is not hindered in getting to his people as quickly as possible to redeem and rescue them; this week, let's pray that the Church doesn't hinder people coming to experience the love of God in Christ, and that services and events in this Advent season might even make it easier.

7 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Chester
Diocese of Kuopio (*Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland*)
- **Anglican Communion:**
The Church of Bangladesh
Moderator: Most Revd Samuel Sunil Mankhin
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all those responsible for diocesan finance and parish giving
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Church of St John the Baptist, Meldon

8 Monday

Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Ruwenzori (Uganda)

Bp Reuben Kisembo

- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all who guide candidates through selection and training for lay and ordained ministry
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Church of St Mary Magdalene, Whalton

9 Tuesday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of East Ruwenzori (Uganda)
Bp George Turyasingura
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For Stephen Tranter, and those working with him in nurturing vocations and the formation of ordination candidates
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Netherwitton
Priest-in-charge: Elaine Jones
Reader: Pam Walker MBE

10 Wednesday

Ember Day

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of South Ruwenzori (Uganda)
Bp Nathan Baluku
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all those involved in the development of Discipleship and Ministry for Mission
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Bothal and Pegswood with Longhirst
Rector: *vacant*

Embertide in Advent

In addition to our regular prayers for those in training for ordained or lay ministry, and all who support and encourage them, please pray this Advent:

- for Stephen Tranter in his work as Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations
- for those feeling a call to ministry, but who have not yet talked to anyone about it;
- for the Bishops' Advisers and all those preparing to attend a Panel in 2026.

11 Thursday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Sabah (South East Asia)
Bp Melter Jiki Tais
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all clergy and readers who continue to serve the Church in many ways beyond retirement
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
St Andrew's Church, Bothal
- **Praying for Unity**
For all preparations being made for joint services and activities at Christmas and during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (begins on January 18th)

12 Friday

Ember Day

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Sabongidda Ora (Nigeria)
Bp Augustine E Ohilebo
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For teachers and students in the Lindisfarne College of Theology
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
St Margaret's Chapel, Pegswood (a Local Ecumenical Partnership)

13 Saturday

Ember Day

Lucy, martyr at Syracuse, 304
Samuel Johnson, moralist, 1784

- **Anglican Communion:**
The Sacred Circle (Canada)
Primate: Abp Christopher Harper
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all who in church and community reach out to support and encourage children and young people
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Church of St John the Evangelist, Longhirst

14 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Borg (Church of Norway)
Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham
- **Anglican Communion:**
Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

This week ...

"Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" (Matthew 11:3)

It seems like Jesus' ministry isn't turning out the way that John the Baptist expected, and so he sends his disciples to check on what's going on; this week, let's pray for all those who don't see God working as they expect, or whose circumstances are uncertain, that they might have patience to wait and grace to recognise where the Holy Spirit is at work in their lives.

Primate: Most Revd Rosa Dos Santos Bassotto

- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all who at diocesan and local level share in the care of church buildings
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Cresswell and Lynemouth
Vicar: Julia Lacey
- William Leach Campus of the Northumberland C of E Academy

15 Monday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Saint Helena (Southern Africa)
Bp Dale Bowers
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For the developing work and witness of our Resource Church at St Thomas' in Newcastle City Centre.
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Kirkwhelpington with Kirkharle and Kirkheaton and Cambo
Priest-in-Charge: *vacant*

16 Tuesday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Saint Mark the Evangelist (Southern Africa) Bp Luke Pretorius
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all involved in building and promoting links and partnerships ecumenically, internationally and through inter-faith and ethnic relations

- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Holy Trinity Church, Cambo
- Cambo Primary School

17 Wednesday *O Sapientia*

Eglantine Jebb, social reformer, founder of 'Save the Children', 1928

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Saldanha Bay (Southern Africa)
Bp Raphael Hess
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all responsible for the safeguarding and protection of vulnerable people, including children
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
St Wilfred's Church, Kirkharle

18 Thursday *O Adonai*

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Salisbury
Bp Stephen Lake
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all the Church's musicians and worship leaders, especially in the Advent and Christmas seasons
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
St Bartholomew's Church, Kirkwhelpington
- **Praying for Unity**
For all that the churches seek to do together to bring hope to the homeless, needy, suffering and forgotten people of our region.

19 Friday *O Radix Jesse*

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of El Salvador (Central America)
Most Revd Juan David Alvarado Melgar
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For those living with disabilities who need to rely on others to care for them and support them
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
St Bartholomew's Church, Kirkheaton

20 Saturday *O Clavis David*

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Sambalpur (North India)
Bp Immanuel Dani

- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all engaged in ministries of healing, deliverance and pastoral care
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Longhorsley
Vicar: Elaine Jones

This week ...

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife ..." (Matthew 1:20)

Whereas Luke's Gospel focuses on Mary's utter faithfulness to God as she receives the news of her heavenly pregnancy, Matthew's Gospel shows us Joseph's utter fear of what others might think; this week, let's pray for all who fear to share the good news of God in Christ, even ourselves, that we might be encouraged, like Joseph, to have faith more like Mary.

21 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT *O Oriens*

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Oslo (Church of Norway)
Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness (Scottish Episcopal Church)
Diocese of Durham
- **Anglican Communion:**
The Anglican Church of Burundi
Primate: Most Revd Sixbert Macumi
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all involved with the administration of trusts and charities in our diocese and local communities
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Mitford with Hebron
Vicar: Elaine Jones
Reader: John Laurenson
Readers PTO: Sean Fugill, Paul Kidd and Janice Robinson
- Longhorsley St Helen's C of E Primary School

22 Monday *O Rex Gentium*

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Santiago (Chile)
Bp Juan Esteban Saravia Cortes

- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all engaged in chaplaincy work in hospitals, schools, prisons, the armed forces, with older people and in Newcastle City Centre
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
St Mary Magdalene's Church, Mitford

23 Tuesday *O Emmanuel*

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Santiago (Philippines)
Bp Frenzel Ray Piluden
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all involved in community action with homeless and destitute people this Christmas, including the food banks and shelters
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
St Cuthbert's Church, Hebron
- Tritlington C of E Primary School

24 CHRISTMAS EVE

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of São Paulo (Brazil)
Bp Francisco Cezar Fernandes Alves
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all engaged in evangelistic and faith-sharing projects this Christmas
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Morpeth
Rector: Simon White
Readers: Harriet Gilfillan, Annie Newlands and Sharon Williams
Readers PTO: Val Cowan and Janet Hedley
- Morpeth All Saints C of E Primary School

25 CHRISTMAS DAY

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Sapele (Nigeria)
Bp Blessing a Erifeta
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all spending this day alone
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
The Church of St James the Great, Morpeth
- **Praying for Unity**
For the work of the Society of Friends (Quakers) in our region

26 STEPHEN, DEACON, FIRST MARTYR

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Saskatchewan (Canada)
Bp Richard Reed
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For our sisters and brothers in our Link Dioceses of Møre and Botswana
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
St Mary's Parish Church, Morpeth

27 JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

*William, Lord Armstrong, industrialist, scientist and philanthropist, 1900 [CNS *]*

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Saskatoon (Canada)
Bp Chad McCharles
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all involved in the work of the Street Pastors, Samaritans and Childline
- **Morpeth Deanery**
St Aidan's Church, Stobhill, Morpeth
- * vacant canonry

This week ...

"When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated ..."
(Matthew 2:16)

Too many people in our world continue to live in fear of capricious and violent leaders like Herod; this week as we keep celebrating the promise of 'peace on earth' let's pray for all who live in oppressive and unjust regimes, and experience violence and threats because of their faith, that they might know God-given courage and peace.

This Prayer Diary can be downloaded each month from the Newcastle diocesan website:
www.newcastle.anglican.org/prayerdiary

28 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS THE HOLY INNOCENTS

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Mikkeli (*Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland*)
Diocese of Chichester
- **Anglican Communion:**
The Anglican Church of Canada
Primate: Most Revd Shane Parker
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all involved in the continuing development of the church's ordained and lay ministers
- **Morpeth Deanery**
Benefice of Woodhorn with Newbiggin
Vicar: Anthony O'Grady
Assistant Curates: Deborah Ehala and Allison Harding
- Grace Darling Campus of Northumberland C of E Academy

29 Monday

Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, martyr, 1170

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Sebei (Uganda)
Bp Paul Kiptoo Masaba
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all who support others through the ministry of spiritual direction
- **Morpeth Deanery**
Benefice of Seaton Hirst
Priest-in-Charge: Sam Lohead
Assistant Curate: Allison Harding
- The Josephine Butler (Primary and Secondary), Thomas Bewick and James Knott Campuses of the Northumberland C of E Academy

- The Northumberland C of E Academy
Chief Executive: Alan Hardie
Chaplain: Sally Milner

30 Tuesday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Sekondi (West Africa)
Bp Alexander Kobina Asmah
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For guidance and grace as we face the promises and challenges of a new year of **Seeking, Sharing, Sending**
- **Morpeth Deanery**
St Andrew's Church, Seaton Hirst

31 Wednesday

John Wyclif, reformer, 1384

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Seoul (Korea)
Bp Elijah Jang-Whan Kim
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all members of the Diocesan Synod, the Bishop's Council and the Mission and Pastoral Committee
- **Morpeth Deanery**
St John's Church, Seaton Hirst

We will conclude our prayers for the Morpeth Deanery at the beginning of January.

About this Prayer Diary

We continue to include in the Prayer Diary all those commemorated in **Celebrating the Northern Saints**, [CNS] and to remember our lay, residentiary and honorary canons on the day of the saints and influential people who have given their canonry its designation and/or stall in the Cathedral.

Each week, there is a short stimulus to prayer, normally based on the Sunday Gospel, to guide our next steps in **Seeking, Sharing, Sending**. We are grateful to Bishop Mark for these reflections.

ON SUNDAYS, we follow a well-established pattern:

- First are intercessions for the Porvoo Communion (<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/resources/493/porvoo-prayer-diary-2025>). The Porvoo Declaration commits the churches which have signed it to “share a common life” and “to pray for and with one another.”
- Second are intercessions from the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, available at www.anglicancommunion.org. Prayers on Sundays are for a Province of the Communion.
- Thirdly we pray for own Diocese of Newcastle, and the Morpeth Deanery, their churches, people and organisations, including Church Schools.

ON WEEKDAYS, the pattern is similar on weekdays, but without the Porvoo Communion:

- Firstly, dioceses from the Anglican Cycle of Prayer
- Secondly, own Diocese, and the people, parishes, churches and schools in Morpeth Deanery
- On the first Thursday, we pray for the work of the Mothers’ Union in the Diocese, and on subsequent Thursdays for Christian unity.

We pray for our **Link Dioceses** as follows:

Botswana during January, April and October.

Møre during March, June and September.

The **Deaneries** are incorporated in the Prayer Diary in such a way as to include the **Benefices** (with names of ordained and lay ministers) and also, for benefices with more than one church, the constituent **churches**, in order that every congregation – and the local community in which it is set - can be remembered at least once during the year.

January	Morpeth (cont.) and Norham	July	Newcastle East
February	Bedlington	August	Newcastle West
March	Bellingham	September	Tynemouth
April	Corbridge	October	Alnwick
May	Hexham	November	Bamburgh & Glendale
June	Newcastle Central	December	Morpeth

I try to mark important days in the life of the Diocese (e.g. Diocesan Synods, Institutions and Licensings, ecumenical occasions) with a special note, but can only do so if I have the information early in the previous month. **Please don’t hesitate to send me information and prompts in good time.**

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