

1 Friday

Charles de Foucauld, hermit in the Sahara, 1916

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Bangor (Wales)
Abp Andrew John
- **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 Saturday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Banks and Torres (Melanesia)
Bp: vacant
- **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

This week ...

'Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.' (Mark 13.31)

God's word has power and is eternal: in all the words spoken to us, over us, about us and about the state of the world; let's pray this Advent that we hear the words that matter, as Peter once said to Jesus, "You have the words of eternal life." (John 6.68)

3 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Chester
Diocese of Kuopio (*Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland*)
- **Anglican Communion:**
The United Church of North India
Moderator: Most Revd Bijay Nayak

- **Diocese of Newcastle:**

For Richard Whaite, newly appointed as Director of Mission and Ministry, as he prepares to take up his post in March 2024

- **Morpeth Deanery:**

Benefice of Ashington Holy Sepulchre
Priest-in-Charge: Chris Grocock
Reader: Paulette Thompson

4 Monday

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

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

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Barbados (West Indies)
Bp Michael Maxwell
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
Archdeacons Rachel Wood
(Northumberland) and
Catherine Sourbut Groves (Lindisfarne)
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Bolam with Whalton & Hartburn with Meldon
Priest-in-Charge: Elaine Jones
Reader: Pamela Walker

5 Tuesday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Bari (Nigeria)
Bp Ramdi Wonole
- **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 Wednesday

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

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Baringo (Kenya)
Bp Musa Kamuren
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For Newcastle Cathedral, and its mission and ministry in the Diocese and city
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
St Andrew's Church, Hartburn
- * Lee Batson, Dean of Newcastle

7 Thursday

Ambrose, bishop of Milan, teacher of the faith, 397

Diuma, apostle to Mercia [CNS]

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Barisal (Bangladesh)
Bp Shourabh Pholia
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all those responsible for diocesan finance and parish giving
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Church of St John the Baptist, Meldon
- **The Mothers' Union:**
For the work of the MU as it joins the worldwide campaign for activism against gender-based violence

8 Friday

Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Barrackpore (North India)
Bp Subrata Chakrabarty
- **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
- **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)

9 Saturday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Bath and Wells
Bp Michael Beasley
- **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

This week ...

'The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.' (Mark 1.1)

Advent takes us back to the start of the liturgical year and here to the start of the gospel: a reminder that we have good news, not just good advice. Let's pray for opportunities and courage to share this good news in the midst of all the bad news.

10 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Borg (Church of Norway)
Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham
- **Anglican Communion:**
The United Church of Pakistan
Moderator: Most Revd Azad Marshall
- **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

11 Monday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Bathurst (Australia)
Bp Mark Calder
- **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

12 Tuesday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Bauchi (*Nigeria*)
Bp Musa Mwin Tula
- **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 Wednesday

Ember Day

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

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Belize (*West Indies*)
Bp Philip Wright
- **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

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 2024.

14 Thursday

John of the Cross, poet, teacher of the faith, 1591

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Bendigo (*Australia*)
Bp Matt Brain
- **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 and Widdrington
Priest-in-Charge: Julia Lacey
- William Leach Campus of the Northumberland C of E Academy
- **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.

15 Friday

Ember Day

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Beni (*Congo*)
Bp Cyrile Kambale
- **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: Janet Parker

16 Saturday

Ember Day

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Benin (*Nigeria*)
Bp Peter Imasuen
- **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

This week ...

'He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.' (John 1.7)

John is described here as a witness to the light – we too are witnesses to the Light of the World; let's pray that we might reflect this light into the darkness through our words and actions.

17 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

O Sapientia

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Oslo (Church of Norway)
Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness (Scottish Episcopal Church)
Diocese of Durham
- **Anglican Communion:**
The Church of Papua New Guinea
Acting Abp: Bp Nathan Ingen
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all responsible for the safeguarding and protection of vulnerable people, including children
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
St Wilfred's Church, Kirkharle

18 Monday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Bentiu (South Sudan)
Bp John Deng
- **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

19 Tuesday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Bermuda (Extra Provincial)
Bp Nicholas Dill
- **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 Wednesday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Bethlehem (ECUSA)
Bp Kevin Nichols
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all engaged in ministries of healing, deliverance and pastoral care
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Longhorsley
Priest-in-Charge: *vacant*
Reader: Diane Armstrong

21 Thursday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Bhopal (North India)
Bp Manoj Charan
- **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
Priest-in-Charge: Elaine Jones
Readers: John Laurenson and Liz Hawkins
Readers PTO: Sean Fugill, Paul Kidd and Janice Robinson
- Longhorsley St Helen's C of E Primary School
- **Praying for Unity**
For all who are losing faith, for whatever reason, with the ecumenical movement

22 Friday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Missionary Diocese of Bida (Nigeria)
Bp Jonah G Kolo
- **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 Saturday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Biharamulo (*Tanzania*)
Bp: *vacant*
- **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

This week ...

'How can this be ...?' (Luke 1:34)

Mary's words are full of puzzlement, wonder and no doubt fear; let's pray this Christmas that we will be renewed in wonder of the Word made flesh, and that those who attend worship this Christmas might find wonder, peace, comfort and hope whatever their circumstances.

24 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT CHRISTMAS EVE

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Mikkeli (*Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland*)
Diocese of Chichester
- **Anglican Communion:**
The Episcopal Church in the Philippines
Prime Bp: Most Revd Brent Alawas
- **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 Birmingham:
Bp Designate: Michael Volland
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all spending this day alone
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
The Church of St James the Great, Morpeth

26 STEPHEN, DEACON, FIRST MARTYR

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Blackburn
Bp Philip North
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For our sisters and brothers in our Link
Dioceses: Møre, Botswana and Winchester
- **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 Bo (*West Africa*)
Bp Solomon Scott-Manga
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all involved in the work of the Street Pastors, Samaritans and Childline
- **Morpeth Deanery**
St Aidan's Church, Stobhill, Morpeth
- * Canon David Bilton

28 THE HOLY INNOCENTS

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Boga (*Congo*)
Bp William Bahemuka Mugenyi
- **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
Reader PTO: Carol Todd
- Grace Darling Campus of Northumberland C of E Academy

29 Friday

Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, martyr, 1170

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Bolivia (South America)
Bp Raphael Samuel
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all who support others through the ministry of spiritual direction
- **Morpeth Deanery**
Benefice of Seaton Hirst
Priest-in-Charge: *vacant*
- 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
- **Praying for Unity**
For the work of the Society of Friends (Quakers) in our region

30 Saturday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Bondo (Kenya)
Bp David Kodia
- **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

This week ...

'... all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.'
(Luke 2.17-18)

Luke's Gospel describes two responses to the good news of Jesus' birth: shepherds bursting with the news and Mary quietly meditating upon it. We will have our preference too, but let's pray that in the New Year to come we might be empowered in doing both these things, and even make a resolution to do so.

31 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

- **Anglican Communion:**
L'Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda
Primate: Most Revd Laurent Mbanda
- **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.

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

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 stimulus to prayer, normally based on the Sunday Gospel. This month's reflections are provided by Bishop Mark, Bishop of Berwick.

ON SUNDAYS

For each Sunday, we follow a well-established pattern:

- First are intercessions for the Porvoo Communion (<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/resources/493/porvoo-prayer-diary-2023>). 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 the life of our Diocese and those who work in the various departments.
- Lastly we remember those who lead the life and mission of the Morpeth Deanery, their churches, people and organisations, including Church Schools, where possible, on the same day as the parish of which they are part.

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

- Firstly, dioceses from the Anglican Cycle of Prayer.
- Secondly, the Diocese of Newcastle in the many aspects of mission and ministry.
- Thirdly, parishes, churches, schools and other groups and areas of work in the Morpeth Deanery.
- On Thursdays, we pray for the work of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese (first week) and for Christian Unity (subsequent weeks).

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

Botswana during January, April and October.

Møre during March, June and September.

Winchester during May, August and November.

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.**

Richard Hill

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