

Bishop David Smith

Within hours before publishing this Prayer Diary, we have received a message from the family of Bishop David Smith, who served in the Diocese from 1959 to 1987, that he is receiving end of life care in Worcester. The family asks for him to be included in the prayers of the diocese as he prepares for the next step in his life.

1 Thursday

Brigid, abbess of Kildare, c.525

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Calgary (Canada)
Abp Greg Kerr-Wilson
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Area Dean: Ian Flintoft
Lay Chair: Lynne Craggs
- **The Mothers' Union:**
For all MU members in the Newcastle Diocese and their service to support their churches.

2 PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE or CANDLEMAS

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of California (ECUSA)
Bp Marc Handley Andrus
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Deanery Secretary: Valerie Masterman
Finance Officer: David Lea

Please pray today for the members of North East Churches Acting Together (NECAT) holding its AGM today.

3 Saturday

Anskar, archbishop of Hamburg, missionary in Denmark and Sweden, 865

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Northern California (ECUSA)
Bp Megan Traquair
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Benefice of Bedlington, Cambois and Sleekburn

Vicar: Ian Hennebry

Readers: Jane Clarke, Susan Ramshaw and Anne Wager Bradley (PTO)

- Bedlington Whitley Memorial C of E First School

Please give thanks for Hexham Abbey's 1350th Anniversary Weekend, and pray for all involved in its life and mission.

This coming week ...

'He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.' (John 1.8)

It is made very clear that John the Baptist is a witness to the light; a reminder that we share in his vocation to witness to the light of Christ shining in the darkness; let's pray that we might have, and take, opportunities to witness in our actions, conversations and attitudes.

4 SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Bangor (Wales)
Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough (Ireland)
- **Anglican Communion:**
The Anglican Church of South America
Acting Primate: Most Revd Brian Williams
- **Bedlington Deanery**
St Cuthbert's Church, Bedlington

5 Monday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Cameroon (West Africa)
Bp Dibo Thomas-Babyngton Elango
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
St Andrew's Church, Cambois

6 Tuesday

The Martyrs of Japan, 1597

- **Anglican Communion**
Diocese of El Camino Real (ECUSA)
Bp Lucinda Ashby
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
St John the Evangelist Church, Sleekburn

7 Wednesday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn
(Australia) Bp Mark Short
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Benefice of Blyth St Cuthbert
Vicar: *vacant*
Readers (PTO): Lynne Craggs and Josephine Kulke

8 Thursday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Canterbury
Abp Justin Welby, Bp Rose Hudson-Wilkin
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Benefice of Blyth St Mary
Vicar: Catherine Macpherson
- **Praying for Unity:**
For all preparing ecumenical courses and events for Lent

9 Friday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Cape Coast (West Africa)
Bp Victor Atta-Baffoe
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Benefice of Choppington St Paul the Apostle
Vicar: Terry Moat

10 Saturday

Scholastica, sister of Benedict, abbess of Plombariola, c.543

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Cape Town (Southern Africa)
Abp Thabo Makgoba
 - **Bedlington Deanery:**
Church of St Paul the Apostle, Choppington
- Please pray today for all taking part in the Deanery Development Groups Planning Day.*

This coming week ...

'Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one was with them any more, but only Jesus' (Mark 9.8)

The Transfiguration is a real 'mountain-top' experience, but it ends with a stark image of the disciples and only Jesus left. Yet as we prepare to begin Lent, what better prayer and reminder for us, and our churches, that what truly matters is 'only Jesus'.

11 SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Worcester
Diocese of Hamar (Church of Norway)
- **Anglican Communion:**
Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan)
Primate: Abp Justin Badi Arama
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Holy Family Church, Stakeford

12 Monday

*Ethelwold of Lindisfarne, 740 [CNS] **

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba Bp *vacant*
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Benefice of Cramlington
Team Rector: Wullie Docherty
Team Vicar: David Gray
Reader: John Brierley
Readers (PTO): Elizabeth Allen and Barry Stewart
- * *vacant canonry*
Please pray for the Revd David Atkinson, who will be licensed as Priest in Charge of the Benefices of Seghill and Delaval (Bedlington Deanery) by Bishop Helen-Ann this evening.

13 Tuesday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Carlisle
Acting Bp Rob Saner-Haigh
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
St Nicholas' Church, Cramlington
- Cragside C of E First School, Cramlington

14 ASH WEDNESDAY

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of East Carolina (ECUSA)
Bp Robert Skirving
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
St Peter's Church, Northburn School, Cramlington

15 Thursday

Sigfrid, bishop, apostle of Sweden, 1045
Thomas Bray, priest, founder of SPCK and SPG, 1730

- **Anglican Communion:**

Diocese of North Carolina (ECUSA)

Bp Samuel Rodman

- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Benefice of Delaval
Vicar: David Atkinson
Reader: Christina Malvern (PTO)
- **Praying for Unity:**
For the Church leaders of all denominations in the North East

17 Saturday

Janani Luwum, archbishop of Uganda, martyr, 1977

*Finan of Lindisfarne, bishop, 661 [CNS]**

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Upper South Carolina
Bp Daniel Richards
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
St Michael and All Angels' Church, New Hartley
- * *vacant canonry*

This coming week ...

'And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.' (Mark 1.12)

There are far too many refugees and asylum seekers in our world, ordinary people drive out where they don't want to go. The dynamic but terse language of Mark's Gospel reflects this here, but Jesus is driven into the suffering and temptation of the wilderness for the sake of the world; let's pray for all who are driven out that they might find they belong, in him.

18 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

*Colman of Lindisfarne, bishop, 679 [CNS]**

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Peterborough
Diocese of Meath and Kildare (Ireland)
- **Anglican Communion:**
Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan
Primate: Abp Ezekiel Kumir Kondo
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
St Paul's Church, Seaton Sluice
- * Allan Marks, Vicar of Christ Church and St Ann's, Newcastle

19 Monday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Western North Carolina
Bp José Antonio McLoughlin
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Benefice of Newsham and Horton
St Bede's Church, Newsham
Vicar: Ian Flintoft
Assistant Curate: Sion Hughes Carew
Reader: Yvonne Knibbs

20 Tuesday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory (Ireland) Bp Adrian Wilkinson
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Church of St Mary the Virgin, Horton

21 Wednesday

Ember Day

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Chandigarh (North India)
Bp Denzal Peoples
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Benefice of St Benedict, Cowpen
Vicar: *vacant*

22 Thursday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Chelmsford
Bp Guli Francis-Dehqani
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Benefice of Killingworth
Priest in charge: Sarah Moon
Readers: Hilary Elder and Frances Pattison (PTO)
- **Praying for Unity**
For all involved in the planning and implementation of this year's 'Thy Kingdom Come' programme in May-June
Today is the 10th Anniversary of Bishop Helen-Ann's consecration as a bishop. We give thanks and pray for her at this important moment.

23 Friday

Ember Day

Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, martyr, c.155

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Chester
Bp Mark Tanner
- **Bedlington Deanery**
Benefice of Seghill
Vicar: David Atkinson
Reader: Christine Bryars (PTO)

24 Saturday

Ember Day

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Chhattisgarh (North India)
Bp Ajay James
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
St Mary's Church, Holywell

The General Synod meets today until Tuesday.
Please pray for all entrusted with the leadership of the Church, and especially those representing our diocese.

This coming week ...

'Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering ...'
(Mark 8.31)

Suffering comes in all kinds of ways, some more easily recognized than others. It is often difficult to talk about and even more difficult to endure, yet Jesus openly and squarely faces his suffering, nor does he turn away from our suffering; let's pray for all those we know who are suffering this week.

25 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Peterborough
Diocese of Meath and Kildare (Ireland)
- **Anglican Communion:**
Anglican Church of Tanzania
Primate: Abp Maimbo Mndolwa.
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Holy Trinity Church, Seghill

26 Monday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Chicago (ECUSA)

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

Bp Paula Clark

- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Benefice of Weetslade
Vicar: vacant
Reader: Shirley Morgan

27 Tuesday

George Herbert, priest, poet, 1633

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Chichester
Bp Martin Warner
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Church of the Good Shepherd, Burradon

28 Wednesday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Chotanagpur (North India)
Bp B B Baskey
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
St Paul's Church, Dudley

29 Thursday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Christ the King (Southern Africa)
Bp William Mostert
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
All engaged in the Deanery Planning process in Bedlington Deanery
- **Praying for Unity**
For all who belong to the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

About this month's 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-2024>). 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 remember our own Diocese of Newcastle, and the Bedlington 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, our own Diocese, and the people, parishes, churches and schools in Bedlington Deanery.
- On the first Thursday, we pray for the work of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese

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.**

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