

31ST DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS 1

Anglican Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda.

Hereford Abbeydore Deanery.

Porvoo All the member churches of the Porvoo Communion.

The Wider View Pray for preparations being made for the Christian Days of Encounter in June 2024, in Frankfurt/Oder (eastern Germany) and Słubice (on the opposite bank of the Oder, in Poland), under the motto “Nothing can separate us” - a meeting of Central and Eastern European churches focusing on faith, charity and exchange.

This Week **Dry January** prompts prayers for all who feel they drink too much, and are trying to reduce their dependence on alcohol, as well as for the agencies and organisations that offer advice and support.

As the New Year begins, pray for the **unquiet places of our world** and who do not feel they can look ahead with hope. May we dedicate ourselves afresh to the cause of peace, justice and freedom, and to the care of the hurt, afraid, exploited or rejected of our world.

Pray for our **schools** as the new term begins: for schools expecting to face inspections in the near future, or dealing with difficult budget or staffing challenges. Pray for school governors.

Pray for 2024 as a **Year of Faith** in our diocese, building on last year’s Year of Prayer, and centred on ‘Living a Christ-like life’. Pray for the various events being planned and prepared.

As we approach the **Epiphany**, give thanks that Jesus is given for the salvation of all, as our servant-king, true priest and perfect offering.

7TH JANUARY - BAPTISM OF JESUS (MAY BE KEPT AS THE EPIPHANY)

Anglican The Scottish Episcopal Church.

Hereford Bridgnorth Deanery.

Porvoo England: London; Norway: Nidaros and Trondheim.

The Wider View In Tanzania, pray for the work of disease control and prevention, focusing on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria. Pray for progress towards the declared aim of universal access to health systems that are integrated, equitable, and sustainable.

This Week Pray for the work of **world mission**, expressed in service as well as in preaching, and a fruitful partnership in Christ in mission “from everywhere to everywhere.

Give thanks for the faith and service offered by the **Society of Friends** (Quakers) in this week that honours George Fox.

Pray for the safety and release of those who are **trafficked** as migrants worldwide, and for all who are working against the criminal gangs involved in trafficking.

Paget’s Disease Awareness Day falls on Thursday. Paget’s affects the normal repair and renewal process of bone, so that affected bone is

renewed and repaired at an increased rate, which can leave it enlarged and misshapen.

The **Big Schools' Birdwatch**, organised by the RSPB, prompts prayer for all that helps encourage in children and young people a love of nature and a concern for the environment.

At the **Baptism of Jesus**, may we be ready to revisit and renew our own baptismal vows, and to commit ourselves to whatever God is wanting now to do among us and through us as his people.

14TH JANUARY - EPIPHANY 2

Anglican	The Province of South-East Asia.
Hereford	Our outreach to families and young people; those within the local church who lead or help organise Messy Church, Muddy Church, Forest Church, Open the Book and other activities and worship events with children, young people and families in mind.
Porvoo	Finland: Oulu; Norway: Sør-Hålogaland (Bodø); England: Coventry.
The Wider View	Pray for those currently training for ordained ministry at St Marks College in Dar es Salaam, and for a generous response this Lent for this important work.
This Week	<p>Pray for those greatly at risk of mental stress and depressive illness at this dark and cold time of the year.</p> <p>As the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins this week. Pray for those of other denominations within our communities, and that we may work creatively together in mission and service. Pray for the Christian communities of Burkina Faso who have prepared this year's worship and study material.</p> <p>Plough Sunday may be kept this week or later in our churches, and prompts prayer for farmers and for all who work in agriculture, and for the work of the Arthur Rank Centre, of agricultural chaplaincies, and of the Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy.</p> <p>Pray for all who work to ensure that traditional country crafts are valued, preserved and passed on, and that as the world changes, we may remain in touch with our roots.</p> <p>Pray for all who administer and use our village and community halls, giving thanks for the service they provide. Pray too for those who serve on our elected parish or community councils, and for voluntary community help groups providing help with shopping, travel to appointments and hospital visits, etc.</p>

21ST JANUARY - EPIPHANY 3

Anglican	The Church of South India.
Hereford	Bromyard Deanery.
Porvoo	Finland: Tampere; England: Manchester.
The Wider View	Coastal regions of Tanzania are under significant threat from climate change, including rising sea levels, with more than ten million people

This Week

predicted to have to flee their homes by 2050. Dar-es-Salaam is at particular risk. Pray that responses such as better monitoring, new sea walls and the expansion of mangrove forests may find the funding they need and bear fruit, and for rapid urbanisation to be controlled.

Pray for all who are struggling to pay **energy bills** during this month when bills are probably at their highest, and for campaigns such as Big Energy Saving Week that raise awareness of the options to change suppliers, find better tariffs, and be more energy efficient.

World Religion Day provides an opportunity for those of different faiths to become more aware each other, and to celebrate both the differences and the connections between different faiths. Pray for those of other faiths living within our communities.

Pray for organisations working with **dementia**, and for those living with dementia, for their families, and for all that helps us to be “dementia-friendly”.

Saturday is **Holocaust Memorial Day**, with the theme of the fragility of freedom. The removal of freedoms has often been a first step in a process of persecution, and this continues to happen - pray for all who lack the freedoms we take for granted.

Parent Mental Health Day (also Saturday) brings together parents and carers involved with young people’s mental health, to discuss the struggles they face and to mark the achievements and successes. This year’s theme is “creating positive relationships”.

28TH JANUARY - EPIPHANY 4 (MAY BE KEPT AS CANDLEMAS)

Anglican
Hereford

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

Pray for all that helps resource the local church in mission, and to be serving and responsive within our parish communities, and for the work of Mark Melliish and those who work with him.

Porvoo

England: Birmingham; Ireland: Cork, Cloyne & Ross; Denmark: Elsinore.

The Wider View

More than half the area of Dar-es-Salaam is made up of unplanned and informal settlements, which both spread and become more dense due to the constant migration into the city, mostly for economic reasons. This rapid and informal urbanization, with poor and densely packed housing, has significant impacts on health. Heat stress is an issue, exacerbated by the urban “heat island” effect, and cholera outbreaks are not uncommon. Pray for work to improve urban health and living conditions.

This Week

On **World Leprosy Day**, pray we may end stigma and embrace dignity (this year’s theme). Pray we may work creatively to address the social and psychological aspects of leprosy, alongside the medical efforts to eliminate the disease. May leprosy cease to be a source of stigma, and may all be treated with compassion and respect.

Candlemas reminds us that the child Jesus was hailed as “a light for the gentiles, and the glory of Israel.” Pray for special events and services to mark this day, and for all that encourages a spirit of discipleship and self-offering within the Church.

National Storytelling Week celebrates the power of sharing stories, that can teach us about the world, allow us to step into someone else’s shoes and feel empathy, and help us to relax and escape. Friday is **World Wetlands Day**, focusing attention on an important and often fragile component of our environment. Pray for the protection of wetland habitats and all that lives within them, and for the creation of new wetland areas.

The charity Mind sponsors **Time to Talk Day** on Thursday. Mental illness can isolate people and even leave them feeling ashamed, yet about one in four of us will experience a mental health issue this year. The day aims to bring people and communities together to talk about mental health.

4TH FEBRUARY - 2 BEFORE LENT

Anglican	Anglican Church of South America.
Hereford	Clun Forest Deanery.
Porvoo	England: Portsmouth; Sweden: Stockholm.
The Wider View	Give thanks for the links made over the years with our companion dioceses in Tanzania, and pray we can enable and maintain a healthy programme of exchanges in each direction, as we look to the future.
This Week	<p>On World Cancer Day, pray that advances in diagnosis and medical care may be made available to all who need it.</p> <p>In Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week, pray for all who feel trapped by past experiences of abuse, and for serious and open conversation, effective teaching and care and support.</p> <p>In Schools Football Week pray for all who teach and encourage football and other sports in our schools and within the wider community, and for all that encourages young people into sport.</p> <p>National Apprenticeships Week prompts prayer for all taking part in apprenticeship schemes, and for the highest standards to be maintained in what is provided.</p> <p>Pray for small rural parishes struggling to fill necessary posts, and for strategies to tackle this.</p> <p>Safer Internet Day on Tuesday prompts prayer for young people at risk from harmful material, and for awareness in schools and homes.</p> <p>As the Chinese New Year begin, pray for the Chinese community within our nation and worldwide; pray too for the churches of the Republic of China, both authorised (Three Self) and underground.</p> <p>Pray for church and community choirs, and for churches as places where choral music both old and new can be performed and valued.</p>