Diocese of Hereford... Sunday Prayers (12th November to 24th December)

12TH NOVEMBER - 3RD BEFORE ADVENT (REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY)

Anglican Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola.

Hereford Pontesbury Deanery.

Porvoo Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church; England: Rochester.

The Wider View Pray for the work of the Kwamkono Disabled Centre (formerly the

Kwamkono Polio Hostel), in Tanga diocese, Tanzania, providing access to education and social services to children in need.

This Week At **Remembrance**-tide, pray we may treasure the freedom others

died to preserve, and offer ourselves in the cause of peace.

Pray for local producers, crafters, stallholders and others for whom

the "run-up to Christmas" is very important.

World Kindness Day is on Monday: in a world full of divisive forces, pray we may always be alive to the ways in which we can affirm and value one another.

Pray for all who live with **diabetes**, for their care and treatment, and especially for children and young people with this disease. In **Baby Week**, pray for all parents of young children, especially "first child" parents.

As our **Year of Prayer** draws towards its close, pray for all who help guide us in prayer, for places of quiet and retreat, for prayer groups in our churches, and for all who support us by their prayers. In **Anti-Bullying Week**, pray for all who experience bullying, in schools, workplaces etc, for measures to counter bullying, and all

that encourages healthy interpersonal relationships.

19TH NOVEMBER - 2ND BEFORE ADVENT

Anglican The Church in the Province of Myanmar (Burma).

Hereford Pray for the communications team in our diocese in their work and in

the support they provide to the local church, and that we may

present the Gospel in a professional and persuasive way.

Porvoo England: St Edmundsbury & Ipswich; Scotland: Aberdeen & Orkney.

The Wider View Pray for our links with the diocese of Nuremberg, and that the

experience of the Kirchentag may help to deepen existing links and

help forge new ones.

This Week On **World Toilet Day**, pray for the 40% plus of the world's population

that still lack safe toilet facilities, and that we may be able to speed

up the pace of positive change.

Monday is **Universal Children's Day**: pray for children denied basic rights and the freedom to play and learn, and for children and their families caught up in situations of conflict or living as refugees. **White Ribbon Day** on Saturday highlights male violence against women and girls: pray for all who are subject to gender violence, and for harmful cultures around gender to be challenged and changed.

Thursday is **Thanksgiving Day** in the USA: pray for the churches and communities of the United States.

In the week of **Black Friday**, pray for all who will be tempted again this Christmas to spend more than they can afford.

Thursday is **Carers' Rights Day**: pray for the many people involved in caring for partners, family members, friends or neighbours, often

without much in the way of help and support.

26TH NOVEMBER - NEXT BEFORE ADVENT (CHRIST THE KING)

Anglican The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

Hereford Ross and Archenfield Deanery.

Porvoo Scotland: St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane; Finland: Porvoo (Borgå).

The Wider View Pray for all in our world impacted by natural disasters, severe

weather and the changes caused by global warming, especially where this is worsened by political unrest, ethnic or cultural

divisions and corruption.

This Week Andrew, whose day is Thursday, is sometimes called the first

missionary, having brought his brother Simon Peter to Jesus. Pray

for the Church in mission today, at home and worldwide.

Decembeard, starting this week, raises awareness of bowel cancer. Pray for all who have this disease, giving thanks for advances in diagnosis and treatment, and praying for continued research.

Saturday is the **International Day for the Abolition of Slavery** - pray for decisive action by governments and agencies against those who

perpetrate modern slavery in its various forms.

Pray for **charity events** in the run-up to Christmas, such as choirs and bands performing in shopping malls, charity Christmas concerts and sponsored activities like Santa runs. Pray that people will be generous with their giving despite the impact of inflation.

Pray for **road safety** at this dark and cold time of the year, and that all who walk or cycle our lanes may be able to do so safely.

3RD DECEMBER - ADVENT 1

Anglican United Church of North India.

Hereford Pray for the work of Safeguarding, and that we may continue to

respond with care and sensitivity to every situation of hurt or need

that may arise: for Carl Steventon and all who work with him.

Porvoo England: Chester; Finland: Kuopio.

The Wider View As war in Ukraine continues, pray for the nations and the churches of

Europe to hold firm, and not to be tempted to appease aggression. Pray for all taking shelter among us from the war zones of our world.

This Week Nicholas of Myra is regarded as patron of pawnbrokers: pray for all

who will struggle to afford this Christmas. He is also patron of sailors: pray for all who sail the seas and so enable the commerce on which our island nation depends, and for those who are badly treated and

poorly rewarded in this arduous and at times dangerous work. Tuesday is World Soil Day: pray we may understand and tackle the urgent threat of soil degradation - for the sustainable management of soil resources, and the recovery of degraded soils.

In **Grief Awareness Week**, pray for all who are grieving, for those who get "stuck" at some stage of this process; may we get better at both sharing and listening to stories and experiences of grief. Pray for all living with disabilities of various kinds, for their full inclusion into society, and for the world to be made a more accessible and equitable place.

Pray for **church organists**, **choirs and other musicians** as they prepare music for Christmas concerts and worship.

Pray for our Advent courses, events and other activities - that we may value and use well this season of preparation and penitence.

10TH DECEMBER - ADVENT 2

The United Church of Pakistan. Anglican Hereford Telford Severn Gorge Deanery.

Porvoo England: Southwell and Nottingham; Norway: Borg.

The Wider View Tanzania hosts close to a quarter of a million refugees and asylum-

> seekers from neighbouring countries - often vulnerable to forms of modern slavery. Pray for a tightening of laws and processes, so that

those slavery and trafficking may be stopped.

This Week As the **Year of Prayer** draws to its close with the celebration service

> on Tuesday, give thanks for the many positives this year has given, and pray that our prayer life and our trust in God's provision may have been deepened. Pray God's blessing on the celebration service

this week, and our plans for next year as a Year of Faith.

On the 75th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights, pray we may stand firm against rising intolerance and build a future

of dignity, security, justice and human rights for all.

Tuesday is the international **Day of Neutrality**. It is hard in the world as it is for any nation state to maintain strict neutrality, but may we always aspire to the ideal of settling disputes by peaceful means.

Tuesday is also the **National Workplace Day of Remembrance** - pray for the families of all who have lost their lives in their place of work. Pray for all who work in the **hospitality industry** as Christmas draws

near.

Pray for all in our world who affected by **desertification and drought**. In many parts of our world dry lands are becoming deserts, with a dramatic impact both on the human population and on wildlife. Pray for all who live in vulnerable places. and for action to counter the process of desertification.

17TH DECEMBER - ADVENT 3

Anglican The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea.

Hereford Pray that our ministry may affirm the rights, abilities and value of all,

whatever their age, gender, ethnicity or background, and that this may be reflected in our planning and appointment processes.

Porvoo Norway: Oslo; England: Durham; Scotland: Moray, Ross & Caithness.

The Wider View Pray for the peace of Bethlehem and Jerusalem after a year of deep

division and violent action. Pray for those who continue to work for

understanding and peace across the barriers.

This Week Monday is **International Migrants' Day**. Pray for all who are in transit

or in camps, far from their original homes.

Human Solidarity Day on Wednesday reminds us that, for all our differences in appearance, culture and language, we are one species. Pray for all that helps develop a sense of unity and common purpose. Pray that all join us for **Christmas worship** may find our churches warm and welcoming, and with a message that both attracts and challenges, of the love that seeks to be born anew within us. In the week of the **winter solstice**, reflect on the rhythm of seasons;

we celebrate the Light of the World when with world at its darkest,

knowing that no depth of darkness can overcome him.

24TH DECEMBER - ADVENT 4 / CHRISTMAS EVE

Anglican The Episcopal Church in the Philippines.

Hereford Pray that all we decide and do as a diocese may be firmly grounded in

prayer, and give thanks for all that encourages and enlivens our

prayer life and spirituality.

Porvoo England: Chichester; Finland: Mikkeli.

The Wider View Pray for the many people who have lost loved ones, homes and, all too

often, hope, in the wars that mar the face of our world, including the

land that we and other faiths call Holy.

This Week Pray for all who are **travelling** over Christmas, that they do so safely.

Pray for **essential and emergency workers**, and all those who will be at work or on duty over Christmas. Pray too for all who will be in hospital over Christmas, and for residents of nursing and care homes. Pray for all who will be **far from families** and loved ones at Christmas, including those situations where families are divided. Pray too for

those who are homeless, and also for prisoners.

Give thanks for all who offer help, support and perhaps a Christmas

meal to those who are **lonely or housebound**.

Pray for all who have **lost a partner or a close friend or family member** this year, as they face a first Christmas without them, and

for our care as churches for the bereaved and grieving.

In the week that remembers the **Holy Innocents**, pray for children

who are victims of cruelty, terrorist violence, or war.