

**Praying the Way.
December 2020.**

‘Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God’

Philippians 4: 6

**‘May God in his mercy lead us through these times but above all may he lead us to himself.’
Dietrich Bonhoeffer.**

For our Diocese.

Continue to pray for our Bishops James and Simon, Archdeacons Paul, Julie and Andy that they will be anointed and equipped for their ministry. As we hope to be coming out of the 2nd lockdown pray that there will be the wisdom and discernment for all who are involved in the planning and organizing of public worship so that we will be able to return safely to our churches again

Pray for all the plans for the Advent and Christmas season that we will be creative and inspired in ways to engage with the community at this different time. Pray that the Good News of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ will be proclaimed throughout our land as a beacon of light, love and hope. Pray that the Holy Spirit will be drawing people into learning, discovering and knowing Jesus for the first time through the differing ways of being church.

Pray for any Advent courses that will be run online that through the study in this way we will be spiritually prepared for the coming of the birth of Jesus.

Pray that any Christmas Day community dinners will be allowed to go ahead even if in a different format.

Give thanks and pray for all from the Dioceses and Deaneries who help to sustain the life of our parishes. Pray for wisdom and guidance for all making strategic and practical decisions both nationally and in our local churches and schools.

For our world.

We continue to lift to you the troubled areas of the world; pray for those countries where there is still conflict, allow the Holy Spirit to bring to mind any areas that need the touch of God’s healing and peace. At this time of Christmas pray especially for the Middle East and our persecuted brothers and sisters that they may receive a double blessing of God’s love and be strengthened and encouraged in these difficult times.

For our nation.

Pray for the government and all leaders that the Lord will give them wisdom and discernment as they continue to lead and guide us through these times.

As the time of the transitional time of Brexit ends at the end of December please pray for wisdom as our nation moves into the next phase of its history. Pray that whatever happened that it would be the right course of action for our country and the common good.

Pray for our nation as we face a completely different Christmas this year, pray for families that cannot meet, for those on their own, for businesses struggling to keep afloat, for those in financial difficulties, for those who are vulnerable whether through disabilities, isolation, mental issues, in abusive situations and others pray that the Spirit of God will hover over this land and that there will be his peace in the hearts of our nation.

1st December Bromley Deanery

Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for all the services planned in the Deanery for Christmas

whether online or hopefully in our churches that will tell of the Good News of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Bickley, St George.

Pray for our preparations for Christmas and for the Bishop of Southwark our guest preacher for the Baptism of the Lord.

Give thanks and praise to our God who hears and answers our prayers that at the time of writing (mid November) for the progress of the effective vaccine for Covid 19. Pray for those involved in developing a vaccine, giving thanks for their skills and commitment, pray for those who have selflessly volunteered for the trial and for the hope and light for the future that we see today, keep us ever faithful in your mercy, hear our prayer. Pray for the wisdom for those who would receive a vaccine and for no side affects.

2nd Beckenham Deanery: Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for all the services planned in the Deanery for Christmas whether online or hopefully in our churches that will tell of the Good News of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Pray for the international governments as they work against the spread of the COVID 19 virus, balancing the needs and health of their countries with the economic needs, give them your wisdom Lord.

Lift especially those areas where there is poverty, overcrowding, lack of medical facilities, the refugees and displaced persons and migrant camps and those vulnerable due to climate change, pray that they will receive the help and support that they need. Pray for agencies and organisations supporting them
Pray for any country that is on your heart.

3rd Pray for those children who are vulnerable and disadvantaged and are having a difficult time catching up on their education. Pray for those children who are living in poverty and pray that the schemes to provide them with free school meals will continue. Pray for the families for whom Christmas will be a challenging time financially, emotionally and with possible redundancies and employment uncertainties, pray for all students who have been away from home at college or universities and as they prepare to return to their homes for the Christmas holidays. Pray that all the safety and Covid testing measures will be in place for them to return to their families without the virus spreading. Pray for those who are self-employed and for whom this continues to be a difficult time. Pray for those whose financial situation has so dramatically changed that they may face eviction or repossession of their homes, pray that they will find the necessary help and support.

4th Erith Deanery. Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for all the services planned in the Deanery for Christmas whether online or hopefully in our churches that will tell of the Good News of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Pray for all who have struggled with isolation during this pandemic, those fearful of leaving homes, others trapped in abusive or unhappy homes. May our Lord nudge us to watch for anxiety and hidden distress and to find the best way to support these people. Pray for those who are feeling very lonely because they are unable to see family and friends, pray that there will be people who can befriend them and help them in their isolation and loneliness.

5th Orpington Deanery. Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for all the services planned in the Deanery for Christmas whether online or hopefully in our churches that will tell of the Good News of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Pray for our link Dioceses in Tanzania and Zimbabwe that God will provide for their needs at this time of Covid and recovering from severe drought.

Sunday 6th: Second of Advent.

“O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us and with great might succour us, that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ you Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honour and glory now and for ever.” (Collect CW)

Sevenoaks, St Nicholas.

Pray for all our Christmas events and services taking place in whatever format is possible by then, that the good news of Jesus Christ our Saviour would reach those who most need to hear it this Christmas in according with God’s good purpose. Pray for the evening service with Eynsford Concert Band and online

7th Pray for the work of the Food Banks in our Diocese that they will be truly salt and light and demonstrate God’s love in a very practical way. Pray that at this time no one will go hungry and that there will be enough food and resources to go around. Pray for a spirit of generosity in our land that people will give not only to the Food banks but also to other charities that work to make life bearable for so many people. Give thanks for the many organizations that help and pray for any known to you.

8th Sidcup Deanery. Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for all the services planned in the Deanery for Christmas whether online or hopefully in our churches that will tell of the Good News of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Pray for all those who work in the arts and theatre industry, the actors, the musicians, the production teams etc where there is still uncertainty about when they can return to live performances. Pray that the Lord will provide for their needs and give them creative ideas for the way forward for their industry especially at this traditional time of pantomime and shows. Pray for anyone known to you who work in this field.

9th Pray for the hospitality, retail and travel industries facing huge difficulties especially after the second lockdown. In this usually very busy season for them pray that they will have the resources to cope. Pray for small businesses, pubs, café and restaurants that may have to go under because of the lockdown. Pray for fairness in this area when so many of the large supermarkets, stores and garden centres have been allowed to remain open at the expense of the small businesses.

Pray for the aviation industry with so many flights being cancelled or reduced, pray for all those who work in whatever way at airports, flights and all the businesses that support the aviation industry.

10th Cobham Deanery. Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for all the services planned in the Deanery for Christmas whether online or hopefully in our churches that will tell of the Good News of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Pray for all couples whose marriage plans have had to be altered perhaps for several times and for those in the wedding industry whose livelihoods are suffering in this time that there may be a resolution to this.

11th Pray for all the children’s and young people’s work around our Diocese. Give thanks for the creativity of many of the workers who have been enabled to keep contact with their groups via the Internet and other means. Pray that they will soon be able to meet again physically and that this work will blossom and grow.

Strengthen and support all the leaders and give them creative and inspirational ways to keep the contact with their groups. Pray for Nativity plays performed whether physically or virtually may they reach out with the good news of Jesus.

12th Dartford Deanery. Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for all the services planned in the Deanery for Christmas whether online or hopefully in our churches that will tell of the Good News of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Wilmington St Michael's.

Pray for the Advent Windows scheme where 24 homes in the parish will decorate a window with the Christmas theme and each window will be lit on the days during Advent that it will be an inspiration to the community and will initiate good conversations.

Sunday 13th Third of Advent

“O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.” (Collect CW)

Sevenoaks, St Nicholas. Pray for the morning Children's Christmas Family services in church, at Lady Boswell's school and online

14th Gillingham Deanery. Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for all the services planned in the Deanery for Christmas whether online or hopefully in our churches that will tell of the Good News of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Pray for those who are facing redundancies at this time that they may find new employment and that their needs will be provided financially, emotionally and spiritually, that as a church we will help and support.

15th Pray for all the care and nursing homes in our Diocese, the residents and staff who have had a difficult time and grieving for many losses, give thanks for all their devoted hard work. Pray that families and relations will be able to visit their loved one in a safe and loving way.

Pray for the work of Anna Chaplains and Friends as they continue to support the homes and elderly people, inspire them as they begin to minister in the homes with God's love. Pray for any home known to you.....

16th Gravesend Deanery Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for all the services planned in the Deanery for Christmas whether online or hopefully in our churches that will tell of the Good News of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Pray for any parishes known to you.

St George's school: Gravesend: for Steve Carey and all the staff, students, parents and carers; for the Chair of Governors, John Harding and the Governors; for Trudie Oliver, School Chaplain pray that they will continue to provide a stable and safe education and for rest and restoration over the holidays.

All Saints, Perry Street.

Pray for Fr Simon as he begins the next stage of his training. Pray for the priest you are preparing to join us, that will lead us forward.

Huggens College, Northfleet.

Pray for all Collegians, staff and trustees at Huggens College that they and their families and friends remain safe and well in body, mind and spirit.

St Mary's Greenhithe and St Peter and St Paul's Swanscombe;

Give thanks for the appointment of our new Priest in Charge, Revd Charlie Lloyd-Evans and pray for her and her husband Gareth as they settle into their new home and ministry.

St Mary's Chalk;

Pray for wisdom and guidance as to how, in these unusual times, we may draw the needy to see the love of God this Christmas. Pray for those feeling deep pain due to loss of any kind.

17th Pray for the mental health of our nation and the world. Long periods of being in lockdown and the anxiety and fear, the stress of perhaps working while juggling childcare and home schooling, the uncertainty of the future can take its toll. Pray that those suffering will receive the appropriate help and pray that they may know God's peace and healing. Pray for the agencies and charities that work in the area of mental health, for resources, wisdom and understanding. Pray for those who may now be permanently working from home and therefore missing the social interactions from their colleagues be with them in any loneliness they may be feeling. Pray for any you know.

18th Rochester Deanery. Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for all the services planned in the Deanery for Christmas whether online or hopefully in our churches that will tell of the Good News of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Chatham, St Stephen.

At the start of this new church year, we give thanks for the past and for all those who have made it possible to keep in touch with one another; both in smaller numbers in church after lockdown and through Zoom services, by telephone or email. Pray too for each of the many schools and care homes in our parish; for protection and guidance for all those in these important places of learning and care.

Princes Park, Christ the King.

Give thanks for a very successful, well attended Remembrance Day service via zoom. Give thanks for a family who had an infant baptised just before lockdown. Pray that we will be of benefit to our local community, those who don't go to church, during this health emergency and beyond.

19th Pray for those who have other ailments, perhaps life threatening and have been unable to access the correct diagnoses and treatment; for those who have been waiting months for routine operations and perhaps living with constant pain and lack of mobility, pray for their provision and healing and for any known to you. Pray that essential screening programmes, which were suspended will resume and that vital early prevention will save many from illness.

Give wisdom to the medical staff and resources to treat them. Pray for any you may know

Sunday 20th Fourth of Advent.

"God our redeemer, who prepare the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son; grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so may we be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever." (Collect CW)

Sevenoaks, St Nicholas. Evening service of Christmas lessons and carols in church and online.

21st Strood Deanery. Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for all the services planned in the

Deanery for Christmas whether online or hopefully in our churches that will tell of the Good News of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Pray for those who are struggling with an addiction whether gambling, alcohol, drugs, eating disorders, or any that has them in its grip. Pray that they will receive the help needed and for charities that support them to help overcome these additions. Pray for understanding as to the roots of the addiction and for healing.

22nd ‘God of justice, we intercede for a radical shift in attitudes to wealth across society. Please grant wisdom to Chancellor Rishi Sunak and the Treasury as they address growing problems of poverty-made worse by Covid-19. We pray too for people to stand against racial discrimination, and for growing respect and appreciation of all people, regardless of their background.’ (Source CARE)

Pray for the Government as it seeks to find ways to support the economy and continue to pray for a spirit of generosity throughout our nation so that those who have will be able to support those who have not.

23rd Malling Deanery Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for all the services planned in the Deanery for Christmas whether online or hopefully in our churches that will tell of the Good News of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Barming, St Margaret.

Pray for our ministry team as they prayerfully consider what events and services to run throughout Advent and Christmas and that they will be able to hold what is planned.

For those in our parish who have been made redundant due to Covid 19 and for whom Christmas will be very difficult.

Snodland, All Saints with Christ Church.

Pray for our four schools in Snodland, for both teachers and pupils that they may be kept safe and protected. Give thanks for the hope we have been given that a vaccine will be available soon, that we might defeat this dreadful disease and pandemic.

24th. Christmas Eve

“Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer, so may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge; who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Amen “ (Collect CW)

Sevenoaks, St Nicholas and all churches throughout the Dioceses who are holding Christingles, Family Carols services, carol services and Midnight Holy Communion either in their churches or online.

25th Christmas Day

“Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we who have been born again and made children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by you Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.” (Collect CW)

Sevenoaks, St Nicholas and all churches throughout the Dioceses who are holding Christmas Day services, whether it is a Family celebrations or Holy Communion either in their churches or online. May the services reflect the Good News of the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

May we pause on this holy day to worship our Lord in adoration like the shepherds, praise and rejoice like the angels and pay homage and devotion like the Magi.

Pray especially for all those people who are on their own today that they will know God’s peace and love.

26th Boxing Day, St Stephen's day Paddock Wood Deanery.

Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for all the services planned in the Deanery for Christmas whether online or hopefully in our churches told the Good News of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Pray for Judith, Jenny, Lorna, who are the Archdeaconry prayer co-ordinators and for all the Diocesan Deanery prayer co-ordinators that they will be blessed in their ministry and that the Lord will raise up mighty prayer warriors.

Sunday 27th Sevenoaks Deanery. Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray that all the services planned in the Deanery for Christmas whether online or hopefully in our churches told the Good News of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Pray for any parishes known to you.

West Sevenoaks Team Ministry.

Pray for the new curate Stephen Osei-Mensah, arriving in 2021 as part of the Ministry team, for Steve and his wife Emma as they prepare to join u. pray that the new Team may not only enrich Steve's own ministry in his formative years a Priest, but that the Team will be open to being enriched equally by Steve.

Weald, St George.

Pray for all our online services and hopefully, services in church; for our observation of Advent; for wisdom and imagination as to how to accommodate the most people who would want to come to actual services over Christmas.

28th Shoreham Deanery. Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for all the services planned in the Deanery for Christmas whether online or hopefully in our churches that will tell of the Good News of the birth or our Saviour Jesus Christ. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Pray that there would be a flooding of the spirit of prayer across our nation, that people will see the importance of seeking the Lord's face, to discern his will and pray what is on his heart for us all, raise up mighty prayer warriors.

29th Tonbridge Deanery Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray that all the services planned in the Deanery for Christmas whether online or hopefully in our churches told the Good News of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Edenbridge, St Peter and St Paul.

Give thanks for those God has inspired to create a new form of the Christingle Service that was help on Christmas Eve. Pray that it helped many families to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Pray that the peace and joy of this season will sustain all and especially those who are suffering in any way.

Leigh, St Mary.

Give thanks for answered prayers. Pray for our clergy, David Benny, our Young Families and Youth Lay Minister and Reader Jane Withers for wisdom in their ministry and give thanks for all that they planned and prepared for the Christmas services and for online services within the village.

30th Tunbridge Wells Deanery. Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray that all the services planned in the Deanery for Christmas whether online or hopefully in our churches told the Good News of the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Pray for any parishes known to you.

“Heavenly Father, we ask you to watch over all marginalized religious groups which have become even more vulnerable because of the pandemic. Grant them protection from the virus itself, and from those who mean them harm. May they be filled with hope and trust that one day they will be able to practise their faith in freedom and safety.” Amen (Source CWS)

31st New Year’s Eve.

As we come to the close of 2020 may we reflect on all that has happened in the most unusual year. Give thanks for the many blessings that God has bestowed on us amidst all the difficult and trying circumstances. Give thanks for the many people who have passed away this year and pray for the families who grieve for them that they will be upheld by the love, peace and comfort of the Lord.

Give thanks for the many people who have so tirelessly and sacrificially given of themselves in the support and encouragement of our communities in whatever way. Pray that they will be renewed and refreshed for the way ahead.

Give thanks for those in leadership in the churches, communities, local and national governments for their hard work during this year especially as there has been no precedent before to follow. Pray that they will receive all wisdom and discernment to continue in their work.

Give thanks for the progress of technology that has enabled so many to keep in close contact with family, friends, work and communities. Pray for the many who are digitally excluded that they would not feel and be isolated.

As the time of the transitional time of Brexit ends please pray for wisdom as our nation moves into the next phase of its history. Pray that whatever happened that it would be the right course of action for our country and the common good.

As we stand at the end of the year, may we place our hands into the hand of our Father God as he leads us into 2021.

‘History belongs to the intercessors, who believe the future into being. Even a small number of people can decisively affect the shape the future takes. These shapers of the future are the intercessors.’ Walter Wink.

Praying the Way. January 2021.

**‘Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus’ I
Thessalonians 5:17.**

**‘May God in his mercy lead us through these times but above all may he lead us to himself.’
Dietrich Bonhoeffer.**

For the Diocese.

Pray for Bishop James and Bridget as they prepare for him to retire in 2021; pray for members of the Vacancy in See committee as they begin their important work.

For the diocesan staff as they continue to adapt to new ways of working and work to support churches in a constantly changing world.

Continue to pray for Bishop Simon, Archdeacons Paul, Julie and Andy that they will be anointed and equipped for their ministry.

For our nation.

As we begin a new chapter in the history of our country as we have now formally left the EU we pray that as a nation we move forward, that all the changes in trade, travel etc will be in place or soon implemented, pray

for the many businesses who are struggling during the pandemic and may now have to face more uncertainty and change pray that they will have wisdom and guidance for the best ways forward.

Pray that there will be unity amongst our land. Please pray as you are led for our nation at this time.

1st New Year's Day. On this New Year's Day we pray for the year ahead with all the uncertainties that it can bring. Pray that we will trust in God's leading and guidance as we step into 2021.

"Lord Jesus, the same yesterday, today and forever; we commit this New Year to You. In your mercy please strengthen us for the days ahead, direct our ways and provide for our needs; that we might in turn be a blessing to others. We entrust our bodies, souls and spirits to You. Amen." (Source CARE)

2nd Bromley Deanery

Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Chislehurst, St Nicholas.

Give thanks for the appointment of our new Rector, Revd, Dr Jonathan Bauer who hopes to be licensed later this month. Pray for him and his partner as they prepare to move into the rectory and for his ministry here. Give thanks for the support and help received during the interregnum and pray God's blessing as we move into the next phase of our church life.

Sunday 3rd Continue to pray for all the key workers who are so tirelessly keeping the country going through this time. Give thanks for their dedication and service. All those who work in the NHS in whatever capacity, the emergency services, all those in education, all delivery drivers and those in retail, the Royal Mail, all those in the utility services and those working on the Internet and any not mentioned. Pray a blessing on them all and for any you may know personally.....

4th Beckenham Deanery

Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for any parishes known to you.

'Creator God, the world's poorest inhabitants will suffer serious effect brought about by climate change. Please raise up wise and gracious campaigners to persuade powerful, rich and influential individuals, governments and organisations to pursue just, workable solutions to help them' (Source CARE)

5th Continue to pray for the elderly and vulnerable that they will receive the help and support that they need, pray against an increase in mental health issues and loss of mobility. Pray about the re-opening of clubs and societies for whom are a lifeline to many elderly people who have been isolating for so long, give wisdom as to the right time and approach. Pray for any you may know.....

6th The Epiphany

"O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; thought Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever." (Collect CW)

Erith Deanery

Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for any parishes known to you.

"Lord, we pray for greater concern about the plight of the millions of impoverished widows in the developing world. May governments, international bodies, relief and development agencies, charities and churches increase their commitment to bring support and justice to them" Amen (Source CARE)

7th Orpington Deanery

Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Many churches are involved in Winter Shelters for the homeless but things may be different this year. Pray for those who are homeless and pray that the schemes, which were in place earlier in the year, will continue now in the winter months and the homeless will be supported. Pray for all those who work tirelessly for the homeless and that they will receive funding for their work to continue such as the Salvation Army, Shelter and Crisis.

8th Pray for the rural churches in our dioceses and the nation, many of whom have elderly congregations and may be unable or unwilling to return to physical worship and may not be able to volunteer to help keep the churches open in this regime of strict cleaning and social distances. Pray for wisdom for those in authority to right ways forwards for these parishes and communities they serve.

Pray for innovative and creative ways to 'do church' and for a spirit of unity among all our Christian communities of working together for the common good. Pray a blessing when 'brothers and sisters dwell in harmony' (Psalm 133)

9th Sidcup Deanery Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for any parishes known to you.

"God of all wisdom, please help local authorities to make well-informed and fair assessments of children's special educational needs to enable them to access the education and other resources they need to flourish and develop. We remember the UK's 2,000-plus special needs schools and the co-ordinators, teachers, therapists, learning support assistants and others working with young people with special needs. Please grant them energy patience and love as they care for their students." Amen (Source CARE)

Sunday 10th Pray about the relaxation of many planning regulations and laws announced by the government to encourage home building. As it may be taken out of the hands of the local authorities, pray that they will be given wisdom and discernment to weigh up what is best for the people who need homes, the communities where they may be built and for the environment and habitats which are home to our vitally important wildlife. Pray that the upcoming Environment Bill will reflect all the good from the EU and go further in its quest to seek a proper environment not only for people but also for all nature and wildlife. Pray for the organisations who are working tirelessly to strive for a better world. Forgive us for the way we have abused God's beautiful creation and give insight and wisdom all international; leaders and businesses to seek what is right and good for all.

11th Cobham Deanery Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Continue to pray for farmers, fishermen, road haulage companies and any others who come to mind who are adjusting to the differing ways following Brexit. Pray that they will have wisdom in all their dealings and for openness and clarity into the changes etc.

12th Pray for those who have a disability whether, physical, emotional mental or spiritual who have suffered in these lockdowns because of not being able to access the help they need in whatever way. They may have been neglected in the reporting of their situations and maybe feeling abandoned and neglected as society re-opens and the focuses on other aspects of daily life, pray that they won't be forgotten

and that they will receive all the help and access all the resources they need so that they can have a good quality of life.

Pray for those who have decided to continue to shield and are unable to access further help, that they will receive it. May they know that God loves them.

13th Dartford Deanery Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Continue to pray for countries around the world where there is conflict, for forgotten wars such as Yemen that there will be peace, that there will be negotiations and that those caught up in the wars and are suffering will be supported and helped. Pray for the United Nations as it seeks to find peaceful solutions and for a change of heart for those who are warring. Pray for any country that is on your heart.

14th “Mighty God, you have created everything there is and nothing is beyond Your sovereign control. Grant wisdom and resolve to world leaders to tackle serious environment problems by reducing pollution, protecting vulnerable habitats and investing in efficient green technology. Lord we pray that initiatives around the world to plant tree and protect forests and woodlands will be well managed in order to maximise their effect of reducing carbon in the atmosphere, providing protection from floods and storms and preserving wildlife” (Source CARE)

15th Gillingham Deanery

Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for any parishes known to you.

“Lord, we pray that the EU Settlement Scheme for people to stay here after Brexit is completed will result in individuals and families being treated fairly and efficiently. We also remember the thousands who are seeking asylum because they are at serious risk in their own countries. Lord please grant wisdom, compassion and strength to those involved – in patrol and rescue missions, at reception centres, police and immigration, officers and other –with the perilous and illegal Channel crossings attempted by thousands of desperate migrants.” Amen (Source CARE)

16th Gravesend Deanery

Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for any parishes known to you.

St George ‘s Gravesend:

Pray that we can all manage this time of great uncertainty of what we can and cannot do and ever –changing Government restrictions; for our local schools and any of our young people who are particularly anxious at this time.

Christ Church Milton;

Pray God’s blessing and compassion on all in the parish who are finding life difficult during the ongoing Covid crisis. Pray for those working toward the appointment of a new vicar.

Holy Family, Gravesend:

Give thanks for people’s generosity in so many ways during the Coronavirus pandemic.

St Botolph's Northfleet.

Give thanks for Fr Cyril and the plans for growing God's Kingdom in this parish; for outreach into the community, showing God's love to all.

Gravesham Street and School Pastors.

Much wisdom and prayer is needed for our teams, for our prayer support groups' ad for the management team is all that they plan.

Sunday 17 Pray for those who are worshipping today in whatever way, whether we are able to meet physically in our churches or whether it is online and virtually. Pray that there will be filling of the Holy Spirit and people will feel the love of God in their worship today.

We lift those of our persecuted brothers and sisters who may not be able to worship and for whom their faith is known only by God. Strengthen them and may they be protected and know God's love and peace.

Pray for the prisons that they will be equipped and resourced, pray for the inmates and all members of staff that there will be a spirit of calmness in often very difficult situations, give wisdom to all involved and keep everyone safe. Pray for the Prison Fellowship ministry and all chaplains that they will show God's love.

18th Rochester Deanery

Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Chatham, St Stephen.

Gracious God, in the good and the bad, the happy and the sad, help us to keep in trusting you, confident that your purposes will win through and your love triumph through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Princes Park, Christ the King.

As we review our budget for 2021 pray that the Lord will provide sufficient income to meet all our expenses and still have some to give away. Pray that our vacancy for Church Warden will be filled.

19th Pray for all Parent and Toddler groups who have not been able to meet again as it is difficult to maintain social distances and that they have been able to keep contact with their members. Pray for all new parents whose children have been born during the pandemic and may not have been able to receive help from family and friends, pray that they will have the strength to cope and the help that they need. Pray for all churches who are able to keep up the connection with their pre-school families that when they are able to return the relationship will flourish and grow.

20th Strood Deanery

Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Pray for the inaugural of the next President of USA, Joe Biden today. Pray that as he promises he will unite and be there for all whatever colour, creed or political persuasion that it will be a new era in the history of the country and work for the common good.

21st Pray for social justice: "Lord Jesus Christ, You and the Father are one. May Your anger at injustice be alive in us. May Your love and wisdom shown to humanity find solutions that work for poor people. May your compassion inspire us to put solutions into practice and may our work be not in our own strength but in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen (Source Church Action on Poverty)

“God of all freedom, we remember those who are trapped in slavery of any kind. We pray that UK legislation will soon be amended to properly protect and provide for victims of trafficking and exploitation through the passing of Lord McColl’s Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill. Amen (Source CARE)

22nd Malling Deanery Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Pray for our link Dioceses in Tanzania and Zimbabwe that God will provide for their needs at this time that the Lord will bless all that they are doing in his name in their churches and the communities they serve..

23rd Paddock Wood Deanery Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Barming, St Margaret.

Pray for our schools as they continue to adapt to the ever-changing situation, trying to keep our children safe and provide a meaningful education.

Sunday 24th Pray for all children and young people of our churches throughout the Diocese, pray that they will flourish and grow in their spiritual walk with the Lord, pray a blessing on all those who teach and guide them that they would show the love and light of Jesus in their ministry, pray for all uniformed organizations and youth groups and for the leaders who work with children and young people. Pray for all the outreach to those who have no connection with church that they may be drawn into activities where they may have an encounter with the living Lord.

25th Sevenoaks Deanery

Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for any parishes known to you.

West Sevenoaks Team Ministry.

The West Sevenoaks Team Ministry echoes the prayers of everyone else: that we may be reflective as we step into this year, mindful of all that has taken place, the changed landscape that we are in and how we offer ministry and mission as a result.

26th Shoreham Deanery

Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for any parishes known to you.

“ Lord of light and truth, please raise up increasing numbers of Christians with gifts of evangelism, preaching and teaching your Word throughout the world. We especially pray for people in countries where this is forbidden; that they will hear and understand the gospel and that many will choose to follow You” Amen (Source CARE)

27th Pray for all the Care and Nursing homes in the Diocese, for the residents, the staff and the families. Pray for healing of emotions during the difficult times of Covid when many lives were lost. Pray for the work of Anna Chaplains and Anna Friends as they support the homes and for the elderly and vulnerable people in our communities, that they will soon be able to return to visiting the homes and give spiritual nourishment there.

28th Tonbridge Deanery

Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Sevenoaks, St Nicholas. Pray for the planned Restored Live course starting today for those dealing with divorce or relationship breakdown.

Leigh, St Mary.

Pray for the Lord's blessing and protection of all the children at Leigh School and upon all the teachers and administrative staff.

29th Pray for the charitable sector of our nation and the world who have suffered from a steep decline in funds and incomes because they are unable to hold fund raising events. Pray that the Lord will meet the need of those charities that minister to so many in need and will bless their endeavours. Pray for any charity you support, naming them before the Lord.

30th Tunbridge Wells Deanery Pray for the Area Dean, all clergy, lay ministers, wardens and PCCs and for churches without an incumbent, that the Lord will send the right person and that the Lord will pour out His blessings on all that He is doing in the churches and the communities they serve. Pray for any parishes known to you.

Give thanks for the beautiful world that God has created, forgive us that we have not been faithful stewards of the earth and pray that all those in authority whether in politics or business will have wisdom to see what harm they are doing by pursuing the environment for political or financial gains and so destroying our planet. Pray that discussions on climate change will be fruitful and that the Lord will inspire and guide those in conservation and environmentalist in the ways forward. Pray that the new Environment Bill will be very affective in protecting our nature and wildlife.

Sunday 31st. Continue to pray for the persecuted church that wherever they are that they may know the special touch of Jesus today. We pray for the Middle East:

“Loving Lord, we lift to You the Middle East, where You Yourself were born and lived your earthly life and where your followers today experience increasing pressures. As You wept over Jerusalem two thousand years ago we believe You must weep now at the seething regional conflicts, always ready to boil over into violence and at the injustice and the terrible sufferings of the poor. We pray that Your people in the Middle East will be salt and light, bringing wisdom and discernment patience and love. We ask too that they may have grace to bear patiently even joyfully the suffering they endure for Your name's sake.” Amen (Source Barnabas Aid)

‘History belongs to the intercessors, who believe the future into being. Even a small number of people can decisively affect the shape the future takes. These shapers of the future are the intercessors.’ Walter Wink.

Prayer topics for February should be with Jenny Smith at jenny_marry@outlook.com or 0208 467 6499 by 10th January.