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Praying the Way

February 2021

“May God in his mercy lead us through these times, but above all may he lead us to himself” Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

Pray a Lenten blessing on every parish and Deanery in the Diocese. May we keep a worthy Lent despite lockdown. We pray for all Lenten preparations and activities

Monday 1st Give thanks for Bishop James and for his faithful ministry in our Diocese over many years. Pray that God will give him wisdom and discernment as he and his wife Bridget plan to retire this year

Pray for our nation as it suffers soaring Covid cases, hospital admissions, and deaths. Give thanks that most people are complying with restrictions. Pray that God will turn the hearts of those who flout regulations

Lord, I pray for ... people and ... situations known to me

Tuesday 2nd Give thanks for Bishop Simon, for his varied ministry and many gifts, and pray that God will lead and strengthen him over the coming month

Continue to give thanks for the wonderful expertise of scientists who have produced Covid vaccines. Give thanks for the successful roll-out of vaccinations, for the vaccination hubs and for doctors, nurses and volunteers. Pray for strength for all involved. Pray that the most vulnerable people will soon be vaccinated.

Wednesday 3rd Pray for God’s grace, wisdom and strength for Bishop Norman Banks as he looks after churches in our Catholic tradition and Bishop Rod Thomas as he ministers to our reformed churches

Pray for the NHS as it threatens to be overwhelmed with Covid patients. Give our tired doctors, nurses and admin staff strength, courage and calm, both physical and mental

Lord, I pray for ... NHS staff known to me

Pray for NHS and private hospitals in our Diocese

Lord, I pray especially for ... hospitals in my area

Thursday 4th

Pray a blessing on all key workers serving in our communities, giving thanks for their practical help and provision for our needs

Pray for generosity among wealthier nations in sharing Covid vaccine, and that poorer countries will receive the vaccine they need.

Friday 5th Pray God’s blessing on Archdeacons Paul, Julie and Andy, giving thanks for their faithfulness, wisdom and experience

Give thanks and pray for care homes in our Diocese

Pray for care home workers as they look after vulnerable people at this time of high Covid infection

Lord, I pray for ... elderly people ... care homes and ... staff known to me

Saturday 6th Give thanks for our Cathedral staff and Diocesan Office staff. Pray that God will bless and strengthen them in their many duties

Lord, I pray for ... Cathedral and Diocesan Office staff known to me

Pray for the people of the United States as they begin a new administration. Pray for godly wisdom for President Biden and his team. Pray that their decisions will impact well on the rest of the world.

Sunday 7th

Give thanks that through Covid our churches have honed their technology skills. Pray that after Covid our churches won’t lose these skills but use them to enhance our worship. Give thanks for churches that remain open. Pray that those attending may be kept safe and well

Monday 8th Pray for Beckenham Deanery: the Area Dean, all clergy, LLMs, PCCs and church officers: that God will bless them personally and strengthen them to minister in their parishes

Lord, I pray for parishes in Beckenham Deanery who are known to me...

Pray that school pupils will be able to learn despite schools being closed; for pupils’ mental health; for wisdom in deciding

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when to reopen schools; that poorer children will be given access to technology

Lord, I pray for ... school pupils known to me

Pray for university students affected by Covid restrictions

Lord, I pray for ... university students known to me

Tuesday 9th Pray for Bromley Deanery: the Area Dean, the clergy, LLMs, POCs and church officers: that God will bless them personally and strengthen them to minister in their parishes

Christ Church Chislehurst: Give thanks for the birth of two Christ Church babies on Christmas Eve: a daughter to our Treasurer and a son to our Children's, Youth and Families Minister. Give thanks that the Wellbeing Group has been able to continue during Covid – the final sessions will be on Zoom. Give thanks for our attempts at remote choir singing!

St George Bickley: Pray for our various guest preachers, rescheduled from last year

The Annunciation Chislehurst: Give thanks that we remain open for worship even though attendance is low. Pray that those remaining at home may be spiritually fed by streamed services

Lord, I pray for other parishes in Bromley Deanery who are known to me ...

Wednesday 10th Pray for Erith Deanery: the Area Dean, the clergy, LLMs, POCs and church officers: that God will bless them personally and strengthen them to minister in their parishes

Pray for churches in Tanzania and Zimbabwe that are linked with parishes in Erith Deanery; the work of the Bexley Foodbank, giving thanks for the generosity of the local community

Christ Church Bexleyheath: Pray for our Children and Youth Workers, giving thanks for their wonderful work during lockdown; staff and pupils at Bexleyheath Academy and at our five primary schools; staff and residents at three of our care homes

St Andrew Bostallheath: Pray for the families of three much-loved church members who were called to their eternal home in December

St Martin Bamehurst: Give thanks for those continuing in good health through the pandemic. Pray for those working to protect and serve others in these times of limited contact

St Paulinus Crayford: Pray for Darent Valley Hospital and its chaplaincy team; all our parish NHS services; those who have had funerals through our church; crematorium staff and funeral director teams

St Peter Bexleyheath: Pray that more of our congregation and community will use our online resources and will nurture and deepen their faith

Pray for Churches Together in Crayford and their meeting for prayer and worship; The Bexley Winter Shelter

Lord, I pray for other parishes in Erith Deanery who are known to me ...

Thursday 11th Pray for an effective system of test, track and trace. Pray that it will help control the spread of Covid and give insight into the state of the spread

Pray for those suffering serious illness from Covid and for those at the end of their lives. Give thanks for God's holy angels who surround the bedside of the dying and ease them into the next stage of their pilgrimage. Pray for those who have died, and those left behind to mourn

Lord, I pray for ... known to me

Friday 12th Pray for Orpington Deanery: the Area Dean, the clergy, LLMs, POCs and church officers: that God will bless them personally and strengthen them to minister in their parishes

All Saints Orpington: Pray for our vicar and ministry team as they work to support our parish while the church is closed; those producing services being relayed by video link; giving thanks for their technical skill; people in our congregation, several of them elderly, who have been unwell with Covid

Christ Church Orpington: Pray for Open Kitchen, a Foodbank serving about 80 families per week; strength for the team; needs to be met, and fruitful conversations with recipients; our online services; our pastoral care team as they support the vulnerable

Saturday 13th Pray for Sidcup Deanery: the Area Dean, all clergy, LLMs, POCs and church officers: that God will bless them personally and strengthen them to minister in their parishes

Lord, I pray for parishes in Sidcup Deanery who are known to me ...

Pray for those suffering from mental health brought on by lockdown. Pray that they will be able to access help

Lord, I pray for ... known to me

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

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Sunday 14th

Give thanks that modern technology has allowed us throughout the pandemic to take part in services while churches are closed. Give thanks that God has kept us spiritually fed and in touch with other Christians

Lord, I thank you for ... churches that have strengthened me over the past year

Pray that we as a Diocese will continue to offer the word of life to a needy world

Monday 15th Pray for Cobham Deanery: the Area Dean, the clergy, LLMs, PCCs and church officers: that God will bless them personally and strengthen them to minister in their parishes

Lord, I pray for parishes in Cobham Deanery who are known to me ...

Pray for Dartford Deanery: the Area Dean, the clergy, LLMs, PCCs and church officers: that God will bless them personally and strengthen them to minister in their parishes

Pray for the next Dartford Deanery Synod as they discuss the way forward for intercessory prayer within the Deanery

Pray for the work of the Dartford churches Winter Shelter as they work with the Borough Council

All Souls Crockenhill: Give thanks for the induction of The Revd Jenny Peterson last month. Pray a blessing on her as she begins her ministry in All Souls

St Michael & All Angels Wilmington: Pray that God will call the right person to be our new Youth Worker

Lord, I pray for other parishes in Dartford Deanery who are known to me ...

Tuesday 16th Pray for Gillingham Deanery: the Area Dean, the clergy, LLMs, PCCs and church officers: that God will bless them personally and strengthen them to minister in their parishes

Lord, I pray for parishes in Gillingham Deanery who are known to me ...

Pray for opposition activists in countries with oppressive regimes who seek to better the lives of their citizens. Pray for safety for opposition groups in Russia and Hong Kong

Pray for areas of the world suffering conflict, war and natural disaster, especially those in poverty who are having to cope with Covid. Pray for countries with high Covid infection rates

Lord, I pray for ... countries that you have laid on my heart

Wednesday 17th Ash Wednesday

Pray for all Ash Wednesday services

Pray for Gravesend Deanery: the Area Dean, the clergy, LLMs, PCCs and church officers: that God will bless them personally and strengthen them to minister in their parishes

St George's School: Pray for staff, students, parents and carers in this time of pandemic

All Saints Perry Street: Pray for the testing area in Northfleet

Huggens College Northfleet: Give thanks for weekly newsletters that keep Collegians in touch with College life and each other

Holy Family Gravesend: Give thanks for clergy support during our interregnum

St Margaret Ifield: Give thanks that we can still worship together in person; for those who lead our services in interregnum

St Botolph Northfleet: Pray for schools, nurseries and playgroups in our parish; our re-roofing project; all the connections made during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany with our 'Envelopes of Comfort and Joy'

St Mark Rosherville: Pray for members of our church family who are missing coming to church and sharing fellowship; that we can open our church doors again

Christ Church Milton: Pray for our journey through Lent; the person whom God is calling to be our new vicar

St George Gravesend: Pray a blessing on our experience of Lent and preparations for Holy Week

St Mary Chalk: Give thanks that the Christmas Nativity (including donkeys!) were filmed and shared online

St Mary Wrotham Road: Pray for the work being done in the Hospice

St Mary Greenhithe: Give thanks for the ministry of our priest Charlie and her husband Gareth. Pray for continued generous giving and sufficient personnel to meet the needs of our community

St Peter & St Paul Swanscombe: Pray for Charlie, our new priest in charge

Thursday 18th Pray for those unable to have urgent hospital treatment because hospitals are filled with Covid patients. Pray for those suffering from illnesses whose treatment has been delayed because of Covid

Lord, I pray for ... people known to me

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Friday 19th Pray for Rochester Deanery: the Area Dean, the clergy, LLMs, PCCs and church officers: that God will bless them personally and strengthen them to minister in their parishes

Pray for Medway Winter Shelter in Rochester which will run until the end of March. Pray that enough volunteers will come forward; that it will be a safe, warm space where guests can relax; that guests will learn how much they are loved and understand something of the love of God

Lord, I pray for parishes in Rochester Deanery who are known to me ...

Saturday 20th Pray for Strood Deanery: the Area Dean, the clergy, LLMs, PCCs and church officers: that God will bless them personally and strengthen them to minister in their parishes

Lord, I pray for parishes in Strood Deanery who are known to me ...

Pray that charities who face going out of business will find generous people who will provide the resources they need

Lord, I pray for ... charities God lays on my heart

Sunday 21st First Sunday of Lent

Give thanks that many non-church people have been watching church services on line

Pray that those watching online will enquire closer about the Christian faith and be moved to accept Christ

“When we engage in intercessory prayer, we help God rule the world” August Tholuck

Monday 22nd Pray for Malling Deanery: the Area Dean, the clergy, LLMs, PCCs and church officers: that God will bless them personally and strengthen them to minister in their parishes

Barming: Pray for our Virtual Café that meets every Tuesday morning; the staff at Maidstone Hospital; the staff at Barming School as they juggle classes for key worker children; those home schooling

All Saints with Christ Church Snodland: Pray for all our key workers and Covid vaccinators

St Peter & St Paul Aylesford: Pray for the new venture of a Foodbank in Brassey Centre, Aylesford; for people who need food at this time

Lord, I pray for other parishes in Malling Deanery who are known to me ...

Tuesday 23rd Pray for Sevenoaks Deanery: the Area Dean, the clergy, LLMs, PCCs and church officers: that God will bless them personally and strengthen them to minister in their parishes

St George Weald: pray for God's blessing on CAMEO's distribution of a Joyce Huggett book and Valentine card to all our older members as Lent begins

St Martin Brasted and St Mary Westerham Pray for us as we are both without incumbents; the churchwardens, PCC and congregations during both vacancies; God's guidance for the future

St Nicholas Sevenoaks: Pray this month for our small groups as they study 'The Generosity Project' this term; that we should be challenged and changed by God's generosity towards us

Lord, I pray for other parishes in Sevenoaks Deanery who are known to me ...

Pray for our link Dioceses in Tanzania and Zimbabwe as they cope with lack of resources and also with Covid

Lord, I pray for ... parishes in our link Dioceses

Wednesday 24th Pray for those in the hospitality industry whose businesses are being threatened

Lord, I pray for ... people and ... businesses known to me

Pray that God will guide companies and their staff who face going out of business with the right way forward for their enterprise

Lord, I pray for ... companies known to me

Pray for artists and those in the theatre industry who are losing their livelihoods

Lord, I pray for ... known to me

Thursday 25th Pray for Shoreham Deanery: the Area Dean, the clergy, LLMs, PCCs and church officers: that God will bless them personally and strengthen them to minister in their parishes

Lord, I pray for parishes in Shoreham Deanery who are known to me ...

Pray for Paddock Wood Deanery: the Area Dean, the clergy, LLMs, PCCs and church officers: that God will bless them personally and strengthen them to minister in their parishes

Lord, I pray for parishes in Paddock Wood Deanery who are known to me ...

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Pray for the world's financial situation as many nations face bankruptcy and all will be poorer because of Covid

Lord, bless us all and save us. I pray for ... country that God has laid on my heart

Friday 26th Pray for Tonbridge Deanery: the Area Dean, the clergy, LLMs, PCC's and church officers: that God will bless them personally and strengthen them to minister in their parishes

St John Hildenborough: Pray for our vicar, The Revd Tim Sallet; the team who run the church website; our Foodbank; those in our parish who mourn; health and safety for our Farmers' Market, giving thanks for the stallholders; that the children in our church will not forget our Christian teaching and will watch the sections of our website especially for them

Lord, I pray for other parishes in Tonbridge Deanery who are known to me ...

Pray for Foodbanks in our Diocese, thanking God for their amazing work; for generosity for those who donate; that those who rely on Foodbanks will experience something of God's love

Lord, I pray for ... Foodbanks in my area

Saturday 27th Pray for Tunbridge Wells Deanery: the Area Dean, the clergy, LLMs, PCC's and church officers: that God will bless them personally and strengthen them to minister in their parishes

Lord, I pray for parishes in Tunbridge Wells Deanery who are known to me ...

Pray for patients with dementia and their carers

Pray for the work of Anna Chaplains

Lord, I pray for ... people with dementia who are close to me

Sunday 28th

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land" 2 Chronicles 7:14

Prayers for March to Judith Howard,
judithhoward@weald.plus.com, by 15th February 2021