PRAYING THE WAY
December 2017/January 2018

World:
Pray for: Zimbabwe and its people at this time of upheaval, and for the Anglican Church in that country, with which our Diocese has close connections; relief from suffering for the people of Yemen; peace in the Holy Land

Our country:
Pray for: ongoing Brexit negotiations

Diocese:
Pray for: God’s blessing on all Advent and Christmas services; those preparing to celebrate Christmas; those who come to church as occasional worshippers; lasting fruit from the “Called Together” vision; that Christians will be active in sharing their faith throughout Advent and Christmas, showing true Christian hospitality to visitors and helping them to be part of this great celebration; a peaceful and blessed 2018

BROMLEY AND BEXLEY ARCHDEACONRY

Beckenham Deanery
Pray for: a blessing on all that God is doing in our churches and the community we serve

Bromley Deanery

Bickley
Pray for: Advent service on 3rd December; confirmation candidates as they prepare for their confirmation by Bishop Norman Banks in February; the schools, uniformed organisations and hospices coming to St George’s for their Christmas carol services; Fr Richard as he celebrates his fifth anniversary of priestly ordination on 19th December; our second round of “Back to Church Sunday” training with other Catholic parishes in January

Bromley Common, St Augustine
Pray for: Jenny Warrington, our ordinand in training; the children and adults who come to “Christmas Journey” in the week following 3rd December

Bromley, St John
Pray for: Christingle service on 10th December; Nine Lessons and Carols on 17th December; Twelfth Night social on 6th January

Chislehurst, Christ Church
Pray: that we make the right decisions regarding the employment of a new youth worker; for interviews for the post, which will hopefully be in the New Year

Chislehurst, The Annunciation
Pray for: our pulpit exchange on Advent Sunday, 3rd December, when Fr Paul will celebrate Sung Mass at St George Bickley and Fr Richard will come to us; our Christmas carol service on 17th December

Erith Deanery
Pray for: the Revd Adam Foot, our new Area Dean; the Bexley Winter Night Shelter for the homeless in the Christ Church Boys’ Brigade Hall and in other churches throughout December and January

Barnehurst, St Martin
Pray: that many members of the local community visit our Christmas Fair on 2nd December and find it enjoyable; for all members of our church family who are unwell or have recently suffered a bereavement; our drama group, St Martin’s Players, as they prepared for their annual pantomime 

**Belvedere, St Augustine**
Give thanks for: the large number of candidates confirmed by Bishop Norman Banks in November

**Bexleyheath, Christ Church**
Pray for: the primary and secondary schools holding carol services in our church; carol service for the deaf on 7th December; people to join our prayer for healing team

**Bostall Heath, St Andrew**
Pray for: those to be confirmed on 17th December; our New Year’s Eve service; growth of our fellowship groups

**Welling, St John**
Pray: that those completing the Alpha course will have a living relationship with Jesus Christ; for plans for an Breakfast Alpha starting in January, particularly accessible to young mums; that our prayer room may be started soon; for more leaders to work with our Sunday children’s groups

**Orpington Deanery**

**Orpington, All Saints**
Pray for: the parish during the interregnum and all involved in the discernment of our new vicar; the parish Christmas card initiative and all taking part, particularly the uniformed groups; God’s blessing on our Toy Service

**Sidcup Deanery**

**North Cray, St James**
Pray: that our Community Christmas Tree will be enjoyed by all those who visit the community centre; that those who leave messages on its branches in memory of a loved one may feel connected with our church and comforted by the prayers that we will raise on their behalf; that all Christians may look forward to celebrating this joyous season and be strengthened to face the challenges of the coming year

**Sidcup, St John the Evangelist**
Pray for: strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit during our interregnum; the choice of a new incumbent; the Revd Stephen Sealy in his new post

**ROCHESTER ARCHDEACONRY**

**Cobham Deanery**
Give thanks for: Bishop James’s visit to us; his time, energy and reflections
Pray for: God’s blessing on our Deanery as we move forward with the Bishop’s thoughts

**Rural North West Kent (RNWK) Group Ministry**
Pray for: ongoing conversations on how to serve our young people; all involved in group carol singing, locally and in London; the “Knitted Angel” project during Advent; our Group Messy Church Nativity on 17th December

**Cobham and Luddesdowne**
Pray for: works to the chancel at Cobham and the tower at Luddesdowne; new quotes for Cobham’s church room; new treasurer for Luddesdowne
**Fawkham and Hartley**
Give thanks for: the many people who contribute to making Advent and Christmas such a wonderful time in our churches
Pray for: our parish school Christmas services; that our Christingle, crib service and Messy Nativity will continue to draw in lots of young people; for outreach at the local retirement group Christmas service and carol singing at The Rising Sun pub; rest and refreshment at this busy time of year; our ministry team and PCC

**Istead Rise**
Pray: that all at St Barnabas will have a renewed sense of our vision of “Light and Life at the Heart” as we journey through Advent, remembering Jesus’ arrival as Light of the World; that the carol services for Istead Rise Primary School, held at St Barnabas, will be a joyful celebration with Jesus at the heart of the Christmas story

**Longfield**
Give thanks for: all who run our children’s activities
Pray for: our “Big Advent Coffee Morning” on 3rd December; all who find Christmas a difficult time

**Meopham with Nurstead**
Pray: that our Christmas services will attract those on the fringe of the church and outside it; for conversations we have with those coming to Carols on the Green; those for whom Christmas will be a difficult time because of bereavement, illness, isolation, or poverty; the Lego Club restarting in January

**Southfleet**
Give thanks for: the support we are receiving during our interregnum
Pray for: those who come to visit, worship and pray with us over the Christmas period; those who lead our worship; support for those whose responsibilities have grown as a result of the interregnum; the schools in our parish

**Dartford Deanery**
Pray for: the Revd Kenneth Clarke, our Rural Dean; those helping to run parishes in an interregnum; those who find Christmas difficult; Christians supporting them; funding and volunteers for Dartford Churches Together Winter Shelter; those who use the Shelter’s facilities; all Christmas outreach events within the Deanery

**Crockenhill**
Give thanks: for the church community room
Pray for: our bazaar; a blessing on our Christmas Tree Festival; all that is planned over the Christmas period

**Darent Valley**
Pray for: the Revd Emma Young and family as they settle into their new home and parish; events planned over the next few months to boost funds for our church buildings

**Dartford, Christ Church**
Give thanks for: our Frosty Fayre; those who have been confirmed
Pray for: children’s fun morning on 2nd December; junior church nativity and toy service on 3rd December; Guides gift service on 6th December; crib service on 24th December; that those attending services leave knowing that Christmas is about Jesus; that all our guests at the Winter Shelter starting in January may experience God’s love abundantly; for God’s rest and peace for all serving at this hectic time

**Dartford, Holy Trinity**
Pray for: God’s blessing on all that he is doing in the church and the community
Dartford, St Alban and Dartford, St Edmund
Pray for: the work of our churches; the right person to be appointed as our new vicar; the Memory Café held at St Edmund’s every second Tuesday morning

Stone
Pray for: all that we are doing here and in our community

Swanley, St Mary the Virgin
Pray for a blessing on all that God is doing here

Swanley, St Paul and Hextable, St Peter
Give thanks for: the appointment of our new vicar, the Revd Johnny Douglas; the ministry of our youth worker, Glenn Walsh
Pray for: Johnny, his wife Julie, and their family as they settle into their new home and parish; Johnny's induction service on 29th January; Glenn and his wife Sarah as they move to a new post in Sevenoaks; our building project

Wilmington
Give thanks for: successful events over the autumn; a new youth worker
Pray for: opportunities to witness in local schools over the Christmas period; our outreach here

Gillingham Deanery
Pray for: a blessing on all that God is doing in our churches and the community we serve

Gravesend Deanery
Pray for: God’s blessing on all that he is doing in the Deanery and in the communities the parishes serve

Rochester Deanery

Chatham, St Stephen
Pray: that we may seek hope and yet be prayerful for those who suffer; that we may weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice

Chatham, St Philip & St James
Pray for: local school children visiting the church for their Christmas activities; ongoing school assemblies; crib service on 23rd December

Luton, Christ Church
Pray for: Kent Workplace Mission, a local ecumenical partnership for Churches Together in Kent, and for its chaplains working in Kent and London

Rochester, St Justus
Pray: for new relationships to arise from our Christmas Tree Festival from 15th to 17th December; for people to move on in their exploration of faith at our “Hot Potato” evening in January

Strood Deanery
Pray for: God’s blessing on all that He is doing in the Deanery and in the communities the parishes serve.

TONBRIDGE ARCHDEACONRY

Malling Deanery
Pray for: God’s blessing on all that He is doing in the Deanery and in the communities the parishes serve

**Paddock Wood Deanery**
Pray for: staff and patients in Pembury Hospital, especially over Christmas; their chaplain, the Revd Stephen Baker; all lay chaplains

**Sevenoaks Deanery**

**Kippington, St Mary**  
Give thanks for: our new glazed door, and for Archdeacon Julie Conalty as she leads a thanksgiving service on 10th December  
Pray for: Christmas craft afternoon on 3rd December; Christingle service on 10th December; Solefield School carol service in St Mary’s on 13th December; joint carol singing at Sevenoaks Station on 18th December

**Knockholt with Halstead**  
Pray for: Christingle, carol and crib services; jazz carol concert on 10th December

**Sevenoaks, St Luke**  
Pray for: us all during the interregnum, especially the churchwardens and those who have responsibility for preaching and presiding; children attending the Christingle service; our continuing outreach to the parish; the development of music and the need for a musical director/organist

**Sevenoaks, St Nicholas**  
Pray for: retired men’s Christmas lunch on 1st December; Christmas celebration with Eynsford Concert Band on 10th December; Christmas wreath-making evangelistic event on 15th December; Leaders’ Day on 20th January

**Weald**  
Pray for: Advent Labyrinth throughout the church from 5th to 8th December; seniors’ Christmas cakes and carols tea party on 11th December; collection of good as new clothing for Syria and Iraq through Samara’s Aid from 22nd to 24th January; development of our links with St Francis Strood

**Shoreham Deanery**

**Ightham**  
Give thanks: that our monthly Breakfast Church is becoming more and more popular  
Pray for: the reinvigoration of our home groups

**Kemsing with Woodlands**  
Give thanks: that the plans for the new church hall are at last becoming a reality

**Platt, St Mary**  
Pray: that those who use the newly installed Knitting Chair will find it peaceful and beneficial

**Stansted with Fairseat and Vigo**  
Give thanks for: generosity of giving for a sick child  
Pray for: more children and families; our Alpha Course in the New Year

**Tonbridge Deanery**

**Chiddingstone with Chiddingstone Causeway**  
Pray for: the congregations during this time of interregnum; God’s choice of a new incumbent

**Crockham Hill**
Pray for: our outreach initiatives; God’s guidance and support of the regular congregation; healing for the sick in our village; comfort for the bereaved

Edenbridge
Give thanks for: a successful Christian Trust service during October
Pray for: Christmas services

Hever, Four Elms and Mark Beech
Pray for: Christmas services

Hildenborough
Pray: that children may be led to a deeper understanding of the Lord through school carol services taking place in the church

Leigh
Pray for: the Lord’s blessing on children in the village school; Lionel, our vicar; Jane Withers, our reader

Penshurst
Pray for: the rector, churchwardens and all who help in the church; events held in the church

Tonbridge, St Peter and St Paul
Pray for: our clergy, Mark, Anthony and Wendy; Andy, our youth minister; “Connect and Refresh” youth group meeting fortnightly; Christmas Eve children’s services; school carol services

Tonbridge, St Stephen
Give thanks for: the clergy, churchwardens and youth and children’s team
Pray for: them and all who volunteer

Tunbridge Wells Deanery
Pray for: the Tunbridge Wells Winter Shelter

Bennett Memorial School
Pray for: staff and students over the holiday and at the start of the new term

Burrswood
Pray for: God’s blessing on our programme of events; all guests and staff

Tunbridge Wells, St James
Pray for: clergy having a break after the festivities

Tunbridge Wells, St Luke
Pray for: the work of West Kent YMCA; our Christianity Explored course due to start at the beginning of the New Year

Prayer topics for FEBRUARY should be sent to Judith Howard, 10 Mount Pleasant Road, Weald, Sevenoaks, TN14 6QE, Tel 01732 458285, judithhoward@weald.plus.com by 10 JANUARY 2018.