

Winter 2022

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich

Prayer Diary

Blessed are you who are hungry
now, for you will be filled.
Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh

Luke 6.21





Foreword from Bishop Alan

One of the churches in which I served as incumbent was dedicated to St. Martin of Tours whose feast day Christians kept last month. A key moment in the story of Martin's life came when, whilst serving as a Roman soldier, he came across a poor, cold man begging. It is said that Martin took his sword and cut his cloak in half. Keeping half for himself, he gave the other half to the poor man, thereby protecting him from the cold. That night he dreamt of the incident, but when he looked into the face of the poor man, he realized that he was looking into the face of Christ.

The story of Martin and the poor man reflects Jesus' powerful parable about the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25.

This winter, many across our diocese continue to experience the sort of need that Jesus spoke about over two thousand years ago, and the challenge for us to respond remains the same. In addition to the shocking reality of people going hungry in one of the richest countries

in the world, we now have to add that many are going cold. The huge increases in energy costs have been made so much worse by rises in the cost of living that haven't been matched by most people's wages or benefits.

Alongside foodbanks and debt support, we now have 'warm rooms' in some of our churches, church halls and community centres.

This attempt to make a warm welcome more than just a figure of speech needs our support and our prayers, just as do all the other ways in which we are called to respond to Jesus' challenge. In doing so, it is as though we are serving Christ himself – what greater incentive can there be for those who are seeking to follow him.

May God bless you in your efforts to serve Christ in your community.

+ Alan Thetford

Please note that the content is compiled some weeks in advance of production, so although all facts are correct at time of press, they may not be by the end of the quarter.
Thanks for your understanding.

Front Cover image: Lowestoft's warm welcome – see story opposite.

Warm spaces in Lowestoft

Every Thursday the Revd Damon Rogers and his team have been serving brunch at St Andrew's Lowestoft. This winter, the café times will be extended so that eight hours of warm space will be provided for the local community. Suffolk County Council's plan is for warm spaces every day in various venues, St Andrew's being one of them. Practical support is also offered as each warm space will have two council employees ready to give advice on coping with household bills. The warm hospitality is also offered to families; Damon is conducting a survey with the local primary school with a view to serving family community meals. In Lowestoft the 'street folk' are also provided for as the cafés take turns in offering free food.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Matt 5.5-6



SUN 4 GENEROUS SERVICE

Lord Jesus, we cannot fail to be touched by the practical actions of your followers in Lowestoft. Please equip them with every spiritual blessing as they generously serve. Please stir and inspire our government that their policies may effectively care for the disadvantaged among us.

MON 5 DEANERY OF REPPS

Rural Dean: Richard Lawry. Lay Chair: Mary Howard. Bishops Graham (Norwich) Alan (Thetford) and Jane (Lynn).

Dioceses of Nyang and Nzara (Episcopal Church of South Sudan).

TUE 6 CROMER

Clergy: Will Warren, Jennie Hodgkinson, Ben Rogers. LLMs: John Graveling, Evelyn Smith, Susan Wells, David Masters. Deanery of Södra (South) Västerbotten in Luleå our link diocese in Sweden.

Diocese of Southern Nyana (Anglican Church of Kenya).

WED 7 UNCONDITIONAL WARMTH

Loving God, in the life and death of your Son Jesus Christ, you showed us the unconditional warmth of the welcome you extend to all your children. Move and inspire us all this winter, we pray, to mirror your unconditionally warm welcome in whatever ways we can.

THU 8 POPPYLAND

Antingham, Northrepps, Overstrand, Sidestrand, Southrepps, Thorpe Market, Trimmingham. Clergy: Sian Reading. LLM: Tim Bennett, Janet Payne, John Scott. Overstrand The Belfry Primary. Meeting of Bishop's Staff Team.

Diocese of el-Obeid (Episcopal Church of Sudan).

FRI 9 QUINTET

Aylmerton, Beeston Regis, Gresham, Runton. Clergy: Jeremy Sykes. LLM: Pamela Thompson. Salvation Army Divisional Commander, Howard Russell.

Dioceses of Offa and Ogbaru (Church of Nigeria).

SAT 10 ROUGHTON

Bessingham, Felbrigg, Gunton w Hanworth, Metton, Roughton, Sustead. The Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy. St Mary's Primary (Roughton) Dioceses of Ogbia and Ogbomosu (Church of Nigeria).



A practical response to the cost-of-living crisis

St Edward's Badersfield Community Church held their first Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Money Course in the Autumn. The first evening no one came, "So we changed the venue, moved it to our house and... a faithful few from church and a couple of friends came," says the Revd Shawn Tomlinson. "We laughed, commiserated, encouraged and learned. Jesus cares about our finances, he cares for those struggling and those in debt."

They reached out to offer a glimpse of warm hope in a cold financial climate, through a free money management course. "It's made me much more aware of what I'm putting in my shopping trolley. I'm more careful because I've set aside money," said one participant. "I've enjoyed doing the course; I'm going to miss coming here!" said another. They hope to build on this modest start and offer more in the future.

www.capuk.org/get-help/cap-money-course

SUN 11 BOUNTIFUL SUPPORT

Lord Jesus, you ask us to reach out in love to those around us. May the efforts of all those who offer money courses or similar support in these dark days have a positive impact beyond their dreams and imaginings.

MON 12 SHERINGHAM

Clergy: Christian Heycocks, Christina Rees. LLMs Julie Rubidge, Angela Stewart
Diocese of Ogoni. Ogori-Magongo and Ohaji (Church of Nigeria).

TUE 13 TRUNCH GROUP

Gimingham, Knapton, Mundesley, Paston, Trunch with Bradfield and Swafield. Clergy: Joanna Haywood, Jenny Lodge. LLMs: Harry Hicks, Peter Clough, Andrea Lee. Peter Collins as he prepares to be ordained and installed as Roman Catholic Bishop of East Anglia. **Dioceses of Ohio and Southern Ohio (Episcopal Church, USA).**

WED 14 CALM IN THE STORM

O Christ, tender and compassionate, we hold in your embrace those struggling in a storm of soaring bills and rising debt. May your Spirit calm

and fortify them and lead them to find help from *Christians against Poverty* or other similar groups offering advice and support.

THU 15 DEANERY OF ST BENET AT WAXHAM & TUNSTEAD

Lay Chair: Sonia Coupe. HR Manager, Claire Stone. Governance and Executive Support, Jo Church. David Chamberlin as he becomes Rural Dean
Dioceses of Oji River and Okene (Church of Nigeria).

FRI 16 COASTAL GROUP OF PARISHES

Bacton, Happisburgh, Hempstead with Lessingham and Eccles, Ridlington, Sea Palling with Waxham, Walcott, Witton. The Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy. LLMs: Pam Millsted, John Prince. Happisburgh Primary.
Dioceses of Oke-Ogun, Oke-Osun and Okigwe (Church of Nigeria)

SAT 17 NORTH WALSHAM plus

North Walsham, Edingthorpe, Worstead & Westwick. Clergy: David Warner, Nigel Paterson. Worstead Primary. **Dioceses of Okigwe North and Okigwe South (Church of Nigeria.)**

Follow the star – the Great Invitation

This Christmas will be the first time since the Covid pandemic that we can invite our neighbours and our communities to an in-person gathering where all can hear the Christmas story and be welcomed into the love of Jesus. By now, many will have welcomed people in for Carol and Christingle services. Now is the time to pray over and during all these activities that the message from the very first Christmas will be experienced anew this year.

Starting on Christmas Eve and continuing daily until Epiphany (6 January), you can also share a series of reflections that will help you make space this Christmas. On each of the 12 days, a different contributor will share something that speaks of a Christmas invitation for them, bringing the theme to life through a mixture of personal story, Bible reading, reflection and challenge.

Let's follow the star and offer God's Great Invitation this Christmas. www.churchofengland.org/christmas



SUN 18 INVITATION TO LOVE AND JOY

Lord Jesus, as we eagerly await the feast of your Nativity, may we draw along with us those we love – our family, our friends and our neighbours – into the warmth and joy of your love this Christmas.

MON 19 SMALLBURGH

Dilham, Honing, Smallburgh. Clergy: Helen Lynch, Andrew Bevan. LLM: Betty Lacey.
Diocese of Oklahoma (Episcopal Church, USA).

TUE 20 STALHAM

Ingham, Stalham, Sutton. Clergy: Helen Lynch, Andrew Bevan. LLMs: Mary Shepherd, Jeanette Boardman, Martyn Egerton. Sutton Infant.
Dioceses of Okrika and Oleh (Church of Nigeria).

WED 21 OUR OWN RESPONSE

Invitational God, even as we pray about the response of others to your coming among us, may we ourselves hear *The Great Invitation* extended afresh to us. In these last, busy Advent days, give us grace to respond: "O Come to my heart, Lord Jesus! There is room in my heart for thee."

THU 22 THE UNITED BENEFICE OF KING'S BECK

Felmingham, Skeyton, Colby, Banningham, Tuttington, Suffield, Sloley and Swanton Abbot. Clergy: David Chamberlin.
Diocese of Okinawa (Nippon Sei Ko Kai).

FRI 23 UNITED BENEFICE OF ST BENEDICT

Ashmanhaugh, Barton Turf, Beeston St Lawrence, Horning, Irstead, Neatishead. Clergy: David Smith, Taylor Wilton-Morgan. LLMs: Barbara McGoun, Pauline Simpson. Neatishead Primary.

SAT 24 WATERSIDE GROUP

Catfield, Hickling, Ludham, Potter Heigham. Clergy: Gary Noyes. LLM: Ian Watton. Catfield Primary, Hickling Infant. Those who are not looking forward to Christmas.



No place like home

Liam is in his own home this Christmas. For a number of years, he has flitted between the streets of Great Yarmouth and temporary accommodation. But this is different. As part of its “Everybody In” policy, the Council has recently moved him into permanent housing.

Liam still needs support while he adjusts to this changed lifestyle and that’s where *The Living Room* comes in. He is known by name to the team at this ecumenical project who have, in the past, helped him with overnight stays, meals, access to showers and laundry facilities. But now, what Liam needs most from *The Living Room* is the steadying structure of a positive network of relationships. He can drop in for a hot drink and a chat when confidence is low, knowing that the trained volunteers from churches across Great Yarmouth are there for him, keen to support and sustain his new life in any way they can.

SUN 25 UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Jesus, born into homelessness, we thank you for the heart-warming space which is The Living Room, and for the team’s skilful support of those struggling with housing issues in Great Yarmouth. Bless its developing work, this Christmas and always, that through it your unconditional love may shine through.

MON 26 WROXHAM plus

Wroxham with Hoveton Saint John with Hoveton Saint Peter, Belaugh and Tunstead with Sco’ Ruston
Clergy: Liz Jump.
Spouses, partners and families of clergy.

TUE 27 DEANERY OF THETFORD & ROCKLAND

Rural Dean: Matthew Jackson.
Lay Chair: Peter Lotarius.
Diocese of Olo (Episcopal Church of South Sudan).

WED 28 FROM STABLE TO STREET

New-born Christ, turn our eyes from an ancient stable to the streets of today that in the vulnerability of the homeless we may be reminded of *your* housing vulnerabilities as baby, child and adult, and be moved to compassion, to prayer and to action.

THU 29 ATTLEBOROUGH WITH BESTHORPE

Clergy: Matthew Jackson, Andrew Slater, Richard Washington. LLMs: Bob Andrews, Russell Davis, Brenda Greig.
Diocese of Olympia (Episcopal Church, USA).

FRI 30 EAST w WEST HARLING plus

East with West Harling, Bridgham with Roudham, Larling, Brettenham and Rushford
Clergy: Simon Richardson.

SAT 31 GREAT ELLINGHAM (SHELLROCK)

Great Ellingham, Little Ellingham, Rockland All Saints, Rockland St Peter, Shropham w Snetterton.
Clergy: Sue Strutt. LLMs: Carol Bennett, Colin Thomas.
Diocese of Ontario (Anglican Church of Canada).

Prayer

Transform us, O Christ,
that, inspired by your example,
we may find our voice
to challenge injustice
and stand up for the oppressed.
Amen



We will ensure an active priestly or lay worker/enabler presence in our lowest economic communities as we seek to address the growing inequalities in our society. The Diocese of Norwich Urban Ministry Network is helping to meet this priority of our Vision.



A hug from God

Sarah Russell of St Faith's, Gaywood, is a weaver. "I wanted to start a creative group at church with a faith-filled intent. After reading a book about prayer shawl ministry, our curate Libby and I gathered a group of eight people and 12 years on we're still going – with 20 members!"

The group prays as it knits or crochets the shawls to wrap in God's warmth anyone who may be ill, grieving, or celebrating an event. The shawls are dedicated in a church service before being given freely – left out to take in church, sent out worldwide or handed personally to the recipient. A message in the accompanying card reads: "Please accept this prayer shawl as a gift from everyone at St Faith's Church. It has been interwoven with love and prayer by members of the prayer shawl group to let you know that you are always remembered and loved."



Solar panel projects as a prophetic voice

Along with many others, our churches are facing a fierce hike in heating bills this winter which focuses our attention on our dependency upon fossil fuels. Some have already looked to make changes through air source heat pumps, and others, such as St Stephen's, Norwich, are considering solar.

Hannah Emmrich of their Eco Church group explains, "We run a community café throughout the week, so it's a really good case scenario for solar power, with high and consistent daytime electricity usage." It's a long and challenging process with many hoops to jump through, but Hannah sees it as an opportunity for the church to be a prophetic voice in the community too. "My hope is that as climate change becomes an ever more present pastoral and practical concern, we as churches can provide a space for people to channel some of the big emotions caused by this issue and enable more meaningful change."

SUN 1 WARM PRAYER SHAWLS

God in the clicking of the needles; God in the yarn, God in my fingers and hands. God in the intentions. God's Peace in the making. Christ's Peace in the giving. The Spirit's Peace in the receiving. (Author: Vicky Dawson)

MON 2 GUILTCROSS GROUP

Blo Norton, Garboldisham, Kenninghall, Riddlesworth. The Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy. Garboldisham Primary. Archdeacons Steven (Norfolk), Keith (Norwich) and Catherine (Lynn).

Dioceses of Oregon and Eastern Oregon (Episcopal Church, USA).

TUE 3 QUIDENHAM GROUP

Banham, Eccles, New Buckenham, Old Buckenham, Quidenham, Wilby. Clergy: Sarah Walsh. Deanery of Norra (North) Norbotten in Luleå our link diocese in Sweden.

WED 4 ENFOLDED IN LOVE

As we thank you for those who knit and crochet at Gaywood, we pray that all who wear their shawls will feel enfolded in the love and prayer with which they've been made. Whatever their circumstances, may they know themselves clothed with the care and compassion of Christ.

THU 5 THETFORD (TEAM MINISTRY)

Cloverfield Community Church, Croxton, Kilverstone, Thetford, Wretham w Illington. Clergy: Peter Herbert, Matt Houghton, Tony Heywood. LLM: Jean Rolph. The Bishop's Primary (Thetford).

FRI 6 DEANERY OF BLOFIELD

Rural Dean: Martin Greenland. Lay Chair: Nicholas Cowen. **Dioceses of Orlu and Oru (Church of Nigeria).**

SAT 7 ACLE AND BURE TO YARE

Acle, Beighton w Moulton, Freethorpe, Halvergate w Tunstall, Limpenhoe, Southwood and Cantley, Reedham, Wickhampton. Clergy: Martin Greenland. LLMs: Nicholas Cowen, Vic Tasker-Walsham. Acle Primary. **Diocese of Osaka (The Nippon Sei Ko Kai).**

SUN 8 DO WHAT IS GOOD

Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world towards the Father's love and accompany creation as it groans in travail. You also dwell in our hearts, and you inspire us to do what is good. Praise be to you! (From Pope Francis's Laudato Si)

MON 9 BLOFIELD

Blofield, Burlingham Saint Andrew w Saint Peter, Hemblington. Clergy: Kevin Billson, Sue Shillam Bishops Graham (Norwich), Alan (Thetford) and Jane (Lynn).

TUE 10 BROADSIDE

Ranworth with Panxworth, South Walsham, Upton & Fishley, Woodbastwick. Clergy: Kevin Billson. LLM: Margaret Mallett. Fairhaven Primary (South Walsham)

WED 11 CREATIVE CONNECTION

Creator God, source of all creativity, as we give thanks for new technologies which enable emission-free ways of heating our churches, we pray that more and more communities of faith across our diocese may be spaces for creative connection between your world's woundedness and our response as Christian disciples.

THU 12 GREAT & LITTLE PLUMSTEAD, RACKHEATH W SALHOUSE & WITTON

Clergy: Darleen Plattin. LLM: Linda Stone. Salhouse Primary. Dave Cossey to be licensed as priest in charge of Watton. **Diocese of Otukpo, Owerri, Owo and Oyo (Church of Nigeria).**

FRI 13 LINGWOOD

Burlingham, Hassingham, Lingwood, Strumpshaw. Clergy: David Wakefield. LLM: Lorna Clark. Religious Society of Friends Area representative, Liz Hoffbauer. Sunday School Teachers, Youth and Children's Workers. **Diocese of Oxford (Church of England)**

SAT 14 YARE VALLEY CHURCHES

Brundall, Braydeston and Postwick. Clergy: Matthew Luscombe. LLM: Keith Gerrard. Those serving as chaplain to the Army Cadets, Sea Cadets and Air Training Corps. **Diocese of Pacong (Episcopal Church of South Sudan).**

A warm welcome in all our churches

Andrew Frere-Smith

Development Worker, Imagine Norfolk Together



I'm the sort of person that loves long summer days, warm evenings, and glorious sunshine. However, I must accept that I live in a country that experiences four seasons and that, at some points, I have to live through cold, short days, when darkness is never far away. I cannot pretend that those days are now not here.

For many people, winter this year is more daunting than ever. With the cost-of-living crisis, the hike in energy prices, and the rising cost of loans, some people are experiencing a new kind of darkness.

During the pandemic, the Church stepped forward to offer help to needy individuals, families, and communities. Our response was recognised across the nation, including in Parliament. Our effectiveness was built on the fact that churches are compassionate communities that can be mobilised quickly.

The practical love shown during the pandemic is needed once again and, as before, each church is finding its own unique response. However, it needn't be complicated. In recent years public libraries have evolved into vital hubs for people in their locality. As well as providing books, journals, computers, reference and music libraries they often host social activities. Just a Cuppa Drop-in, Children's Games Club, Scrabble Club, Bounce and Rhyme, and a Job Club are just a few of

the activities hosted by King's Lynn Library. For many people the library has become an important destination. It is warm, welcoming and interesting. It is a place where lonely people can socialise, and new friendships can be made. The best libraries evolved in this way because the staff listened to people in their community and responded with imagination and enthusiasm.

I'm sure this winter some of our churches or church halls can be used in similarly imaginative ways. That is not to say that we should necessarily replicate what is done elsewhere but simply be willing to open our spaces and listen to the people in our community.

There has been talk about the need for drop-ins that simply offer warmth and light - a warm welcome and a warm drink in a warm, lit place. There is even a national initiative which resources and coordinates places offering a warm welcome. In this winter that may be darker and colder than ever, the church can once again present the gospel through giving warmth and light.

Jesus taught his disciples that they should share their light. His words are just as relevant today as they were 2,000 years ago. "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Please pray that God would show us practical ways this winter in which we can love our neighbour and share the gospel through practical action.

www.warmwelcome.uk



Café at The Well – an invitation to encounter Christ

A church plant in Ingoldisthorpe, West Norfolk is serving up a warm welcome with barista-produced coffee in a café-setting in the local church hall. "It's our hope that this more accessible, familiar context will also enable local people to encounter the love of Christ and the hospitality of the Church," explains the Revd Dave Cossey. "Café doors are often easier for folk to walk through than a church door." It's already being recognised as a welcoming place with "warm space" grants being offered by the parish council as part of the nationwide scheme.

The Café at The Well runs three mornings a week and some of the regulars are now attending the Sunday afternoon gathering which offers a space for open discussion to those curious about the Christian faith. "It's a space for learning from one another and building up trusting relationships that create a willingness to be vulnerable in our exploration of faith."

www.atthewell.org.uk

Boundless love

It was a momentous week for Garry and Penny as they had just said goodbye to their last (probably 100th!) foster child and were now retiring. They knew they were good with children, and they knew the children in their care deserved 'roots and wings' and that is what they gave them. Their foster children sometimes asked them, "Why do you do this?" to which they replied, "God wanted us to foster".

They were open about being Christian and never embarrassed about talking of their faith. Indeed, it was their faith that carried them through the hard times: each child came with trauma of some kind and each time they would have to go back to that place and start again. Some assumed that after two years they would be sorted but, "By heck no, more like seven!" Love such as this has no boundaries.

www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/adoption-and-fostering/fostering



SUN 15 A WARM WELCOME

Father, we thank you for this country's warm and welcoming spaces. We pray and ask that the vulnerable in these colder months would find a warm, hospitable place where your love and care can be felt practically. Help us, as your church, to lead the way.

MON 16 DEANERY OF BRECKLAND

Rural Dean: Stephen Thorp. Lay Chair: Jackie Cook. **Diocese of Panama (Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America).**

TUE 17 ASHILL

Ashill, Carbrooke, Ovington, Saham Toney. The Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy. LLMs: Jean Rockett-Woods, Anne Leighton. Ashill Primary, Parker's Primary Academy (Saham Toney), St Peter & St Paul Carbrooke Primary.

WED 18 UNITED IN CHRIST

Unifying Lord, on this first day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we pray for Christians of all denominations, bound together in their love for you. May events and services planned for the week ahead strengthen relationships,

nurture understanding and deepen the desire for unity – for your Kingdom's sake
www.ctbi.org.uk/
week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2023

THU 19 HILBOROUGH GROUP

Cockley Cley, Fouldean, Gooderstone, Great Cressingham, Hilborough. Clergy: Linda Lubbe. Gooderstone Primary.

Diocese of Pankshin (Church of Nigeria).

FRI 20 MUNDFORD

Cranwich, Ickburgh, Langford, Mundford. Clergy: Linda Lubbe. Mundford Primary.

Dioceses of Panrieng and Panyana (Episcopal Church of South Sudan).

SAT 21 NAR VALLEY

Castleacre, Narborough with Narford, Newton-by-Castleacre, Pentney, Southacre, Westacre. Clergy: Richard Howells. Castle Acre Primary, Narborough Primary.

Diocese of Praguay (Anglican Church of South America).

SUN 22 HEART-WARMING FAMILIES

We thank you, Father, for the rich goodness of your love demonstrated through Garry and Penny. We pray for children currently in care, asking for bonds of love in these family units. Give wisdom to parents and foster parents as they work together for the wellbeing of each child.

MON 23 NECTON

Holme Hale, Necton, North Pickenham, South Pickenham. Clergy: Stephen Thorp. LLMs: Carole Hicks, Susan March. Necton Primary. Bishop Åsa Nyström of Luleå our link diocese in Sweden.

Diocese of Parana (Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil)

TUE 24 OXBOROUGH GROUP

Bodney, Didlington, Little Cressingham, Oxborough. Clergy: Linda Lubbe. LLM: George Lynne. The ministry of all District Scout Chaplains. **Diocese of Pathein (Church of Province of Myanmar).**

WED 25 INFINITE TENDERNESS

O God, your love knows no boundaries and, with infinite tenderness, enfolds each one of us: strengthen against disappointment and low self-esteem those children in care who are as yet unfostered, and encourage more people like Penny and Garry to come forward to offer the 'roots and wings' they deserve.

THU 26 SWAFFHAM AND SPORLE

Clergy: Janet Allan, Tori Venmore-Rowland. LLM: Andy Mash. Sporle Primary, Swaffham Junior, Swaffham Infant. **Diocese of Patna (Church of North India).**

FRI 27 THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE

Clergy: Paul Wilkinson, Adam Poole **Dioceses of Sao Paulo and Pelotas (Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil).**

SAT 28 THREXTON

Clergy: Dave Cossey. Andrew Braddock to be installed as Dean of Norwich.



Hong Kong families made welcome

Rachel grew up in Hong Kong and has close family there, so when she saw families turning up in Holy Trinity Church, Norwich, last winter, she was able to connect with them with a question from the heart, “Are you new here?” More and more families were coming so she prayed, “What shall we do?” And heard the answer, “Just get these people together!” So three regular members formed a team, printed flyers and invited the families together for a Hong Kong style tea – about 50 people came and the food just went! She is now praying, “What next?”

Warm relationships continue to strengthen and grow, particularly as the children settle and become integrated into the Sunday morning groups. In the evening service too, Hong Kong students and young adults are part of a wider gathering welcomed and fed every Sunday evening during term time.

A space for early learning warmed by the sun

More space was needed at St Michael’s CofE Primary in Aylsham so, in a project driven by the Diocese of Norwich, a new nursery has been constructed for Acorn Class. These 3 to 4-year-olds now have a beautifully light, safe, calm yet exciting space in which to explore and play, a space which encourages creativity and curiosity and stimulates new challenges and teachable moments. It also opens onto an activity area with climbing wall, slide, ropes and a grassy bank to roll down!

Crucially, the new building is powered by solar panels and air source heat pumps so as to have minimal environmental impact, a wonderful teaching point from which children throughout the school can learn. As 9-year-old Toby, a member of the school’s Eco-Committee, has said, “It is really important we are taking energy from the sun to keep us warm in the winter, because it won’t cause pollution.”



SUN 29 WARM EMBRACE

Loving Father we thank you for your church, living out your warm embrace for your families from Hong Kong. We pray for Hong Kong immigrants throughout the diocese that they may be comforted as they gather, and built up and strengthened as they take their place in society.

MON 30 WATTON

Dave Cossey as he prepares to become priest in charge. LLMs: Jackie Cook, Elaine Rodgers. All Authorised Worship Assistants.

TUE 31 WAYLAND GROUP

Breckles, Caston, Great Hockham, Griston, Merton, Stow Bedon, Sturston, Thompson, Tottington. Clergy: The Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy. Caston Primary.

WED 1 AT TABLE WITH THE STRANGER

In your earthly life, Lord Jesus, you helped others feel a sense of welcome and belonging by gathering them together for a meal. Again and again, you sat at table with the stranger and those at society’s edge. Give us the grace and the imagination to do so too.

THU 2 DEANERY OF BURNHAM & WALSINGHAM

Rural Dean: Clive Wylie. Lay Chair: Anne Prentis. Deanery of Luleå in Luleå our link diocese in Sweden.

Dioceses of Pennsylvania, Central Pennsylvania and Northwestern Pennsylvania (Episcopal Church USA).

FRI 3 BARNEY, SNORINGS plus

Barney, Hindringham, Thursford, Great Snoring, Little Snoring, Kettlestone and Pensthorpe. The Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy. Hindringham Primary.

The Territory of the People (Anglican Church of Canada).

SAT 4 COXFORD GROUP

East Raynham, East Rudham, Helhoughton, Houghton next Harpley, South Raynham, Tatterford, Tattersett. The Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy. LLM: Rhona McEune. Rudham Primary. **Diocese of Perth (Anglican Church of Australia).**

SUN 5 LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF CREATION

Creator God, we pray for the flourishing of those who learn and teach within the walls of the new nursery at St Michael’s. May the care taken over its design and construction inspire others to listen to the voice of your creation in all their own planning and decision-making.

MON 6 CREAKES

North Creake, Sculthorpe, South Creake, Syderstone. Clergy: Clive Wylie. Sculthorpe Primary.

Diocesan Secretary, Tim Sweeting. **Diocese of Peru (Anglican Church of South America).**

TUE 7 FAKENHAM

Clergy: Tracy Jessop. LLM: Elaine Burbidge, Linda Frost, Amanda Sands. **Diocese of Peshawar (Church of Palistan).**

WED 8 WHILE THERE’S STILL TIME

Creator God, for the sake of these Aylsham children and millions of others like them across the globe, may your Holy Spirit brood anew over the face of the earth, inspiring and energising us as individuals, as communities and as nations to reduce carbon emissions while there’s still time.

THU 9 FULMODESTON W CROXTON

Clergy: Tracy Jessop. All Licensed Lay Ministers. **Diocese of Peterborough (Church of England).**

FRI 10 HEMPTON

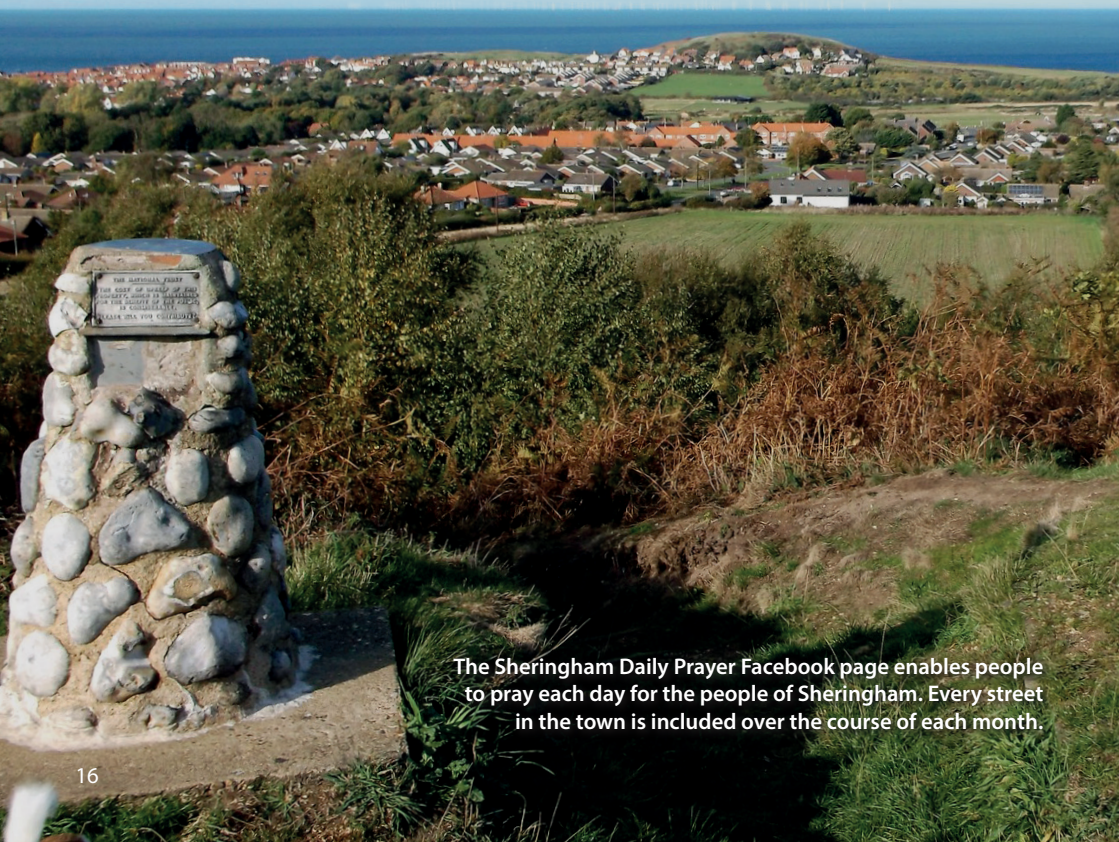
Clergy: Harri Williams. United Reformed Church Eastern Synod Moderator, Lythan Nevard. **Dioceses of Central Philippines & North Central Philippines (Episcopal Church in the Philippines).**

SAT 11 HOLKHAM

Holkham, Warham, Wells-next-the-Sea, Wighton. Clergy: Brenda Stewart. **Dioceses of Northern Philippines & Southern Philippines (Episcopal Church in the Philippines).**

Prayer

Transform us O Christ,
that, deeply rooted in prayer,
we may be fully alive to you
and your purposes for us and for all people.
Amen



The Sheringham Daily Prayer Facebook page enables people to pray each day for the people of Sheringham. Every street in the town is included over the course of each month.

A warm place for young people

Barnham Broom Youth Café has been running for 18 months by the local church with support from North Breckland Youth for Christ. They recognised a need for a safe space for young people from the village to hang out. On a usual evening, between 7-10 young people attend, with the club running fortnightly. There is a committed team of volunteers from the church that support the club and engage with the young people.

“We have always said it’s up to God to do the building, we simply show up and pray and see what unfolds. We are witnessing what often may seem like a chaotic, loud, messy evening also being a place of safety, comfort and belonging for these young people,” says Nicola Ford, an ordinand who lives locally and supports the café. “It’s wonderful seeing older generations from the local church engaging with young teenagers in the village.”



SUN 12 CARE AND HOPE

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for showing us what it means to care for the young and those in need. We ask that you strengthen those offering safe spaces to young people, equip them to show hospitality and generosity, and to share your message of hope.

MON 13 THE BURNHAMS

Burnham Market, Burnham Overy, Burnham Sutton cum Ulph, Burnham Thorpe. The Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy. Diocese of Phulbani (Church of North India).

TUE 14 THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

Clergy: Kevin Smith, Ben Bradshaw. Those visiting Walsingham on pilgrimage. Diocese of Pittsburgh (Episcopal Church, USA.)

WED 15 HAPPY INTEGRATION

Lord Jesus, you gathered children around you as well as those seasoned in years: we thank you for the way in which the Barnham Broom Youth Café creates not only a warm, safe space for young people but also a space in which different generations can integrate happily together.

THU 16 TOFTREES

The Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy. Diocese of Polynesia (Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia).

FRI 17 UPPER WENSUM VILLAGE GROUP

Brisley, Colkirk with Oxwick with Pattesley, Gateley, Great Ryburgh with Little Ryburgh and Testerton, Horningtoft, Shereford with Dunton, Whissonsett. Clergy: Robin Stapleford. LLM: Richard Hirst. Brisley Primary, Colkirk Primary.

SAT 18 WALSINGHAM

East Barsham, Houghton, Little Walsingham. Clergy: Harri Williams. Walsingham Primary. Diocese of Popondota (Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea).



The Bishop's Lent Appeal 2023

A hospice can provide a warm and loving space to families in the bleakest of times. The family of the late Ian Bentley, former Archdeacon of Lynn, found this during his final days at the Priscilla Bacon Lodge in Norwich.

The current lodge was built in 1979 and there is now a chronic lack of specialist palliative care beds within Norfolk and Waveney. This year's Lent Appeal is raising money in memory of Ian to help complete a new lodge next to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, with space for 24 beds, a wellbeing centre, education rooms and a chapel.

Ian's friend Archdeacon Steven says, "Ian Bentley's ministry touched many people throughout the Diocese, and this is an opportunity to support the hospice in which Ian spent his last days. The new larger building will enable many more to be helped and supported at a very difficult and challenging time."



Two into One

When does 'B&B' speak of hospitality, warmth and welcome but not of 'bed and breakfast'? To solve this riddle, you need to know that one 'B' stands for Briston and the other for Briningham, until recently two distinct benefices in the Holt Deanery. Their merger gathered momentum with the arrival of Priest-in-Charge, Trudie Morris. She's listened intently and acted incisively; she's opened her home daily for worship and weekly for supper; she's paired parishes needy in particular ways with parishes who have the resources to help. Everyone has been brought together, existing relationships strengthened, and new ones nurtured.

It's a human tendency to resist change and stay in safe and familiar spaces but the ten parishes of Briston and Briningham have bucked the trend. By God's grace, communication and collaboration are creating a new united benefice, a new hospitable space in which all belong, all are welcome. No wonder they've decided to call themselves the B&B Benefice!

SUN 19 LOVE IN A BLEAK TIME

Lord Jesus, you are there alongside us during our bleakest times. As we hold all those in hospice care in your love, sustain, we pray, the families who will use this new hospice facility, and provide your warmth and care through the staff who will support them.

MON 20 DEANERY OF DEPWADE

Rural Dean: Lynn Chapman. Lay Chair: Janet Watson. Bishops Graham (Norwich) Alan (Thetford) and Jane (Lynn).
Diocese of Portsmouth (Church of England).

TUE 21 BROOKE

Brooke, Kirstead, Mundham with Seething, Thwaite. Clergy: Lynn Chapman.
LLM: John Ash. Brooke Primary.
Diocese of Pretoria (Anglican Church of South Africa).

WED 22 UNQUENCHABLE LIGHT

Lord Jesus, your light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never put it out: we thank you for the new hospice plans and pray for the success of the appeal this Lent in Ian's memory. May the completed space shine with the light of your risen presence.

THU 23 HEMP NALL TEAM MINISTRY

Bedingham, Hempnall, Morningthorpe and Fritton, Shelton with Hardwick, Topcroft, Woodton. The Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy.
Diocese of Puerto Rico (Episcopal Church USA).

FRI 24 TAS VALLEY TEAM MINISTRY

Newton Flotman, Saxlingham Nethergate, Shotesham, Swainsthorpe, Tas Valley Cells (Bishop's Mission Order), Tasburgh, Tharston. Clergy: Dawn Davidson, Coryn Stanforth, Austin Uzoigwe. LLMs: David Lancaster, Lesley Cox, Annette Uzoigwe-Jonker. Newton Flotman Primary, Preston Primary (Tasburgh), Saxlingham Nethergate Primary.

SAT 25 THE LONG STRATTON & PILGRIM TEAM MINISTRY

Aslacton, Bunwell, Carleton Rode, Great Moulton w Little Moulton, Stratton St Mary, Stratton St Michael & St Peter, Tibenham, Wacton Magna w Wacton Parva. Clergy: John Madinda, Lydia Avery. LLM: Margaret Smith. Carleton Rode Primary, St Mary's Junior (Long Stratton).
Diocese of Pune (Church of North India).

SUN 26 HOSPITABLE GOD

To you, hospitable God, we bring those benefices across our diocese which are in the process of merging. May imaginations be alive, and hearts open to fresh possibility. And may the new united benefices coming into being, grow into communities of welcome and inclusion, spilling over with the warmth of your love.

MON 27 DEANERY OF DEREHAM IN MITFORD

Rural Dean: Mark McCaghrey. Lay Chair: Timothy Farnham.
Diocese of Pyay (Church of the Province of Myanmar).

TUE 28 BARNHAM BROOM & UPPER YARE

Barford, Barnham Broom w Bickerston, Brandon Parva, Carleton Forehoe, Cranworth w Letton & Southburgh, Garvestone, Hardingham, Kimberley, Reymerston, Runhall w Coston, Thuxton, Whinburgh w Westfield, Wrampingham. Clergy: Tim Weatherstone, Rachel Hayden. LLMs: Roger Walpole, Mary Weatherstone. Barnham Broom Primary.

WED 1 FORGIVE AND TRANSFORM US

When we are resistant to the inclusion of others, Lord have mercy;
when our hearts harden at the thought of change, Christ have mercy;
when our ears are closed to the voices of others, Lord have mercy.
Forgive and transform us,
endlessly responsive and welcoming Christ.

THU 2 DEREHAM & DISTRICT TEAM MINISTRY

Beetley w East Bilney, East Bradenham w West Bradenham, East Dereham, Hoe, Scarning, Shipdham, Swanton Morley. Clergy: Paul Cubitt, Laura Purnell. LLMs: Helen Jeckells, Evelyn Speed, Lydia Crick, Tom Cross. Dereham Junior, Dereham Infant & Nursery, Swanton Morley Primary, Thomas Bullock Primary (Shipdham).

FRI 3 EASTON

Bawburgh, Colton, Easton, Marlingford. Clergy: Laura Montgomery. LLM: Peter Pease. St Peter's Primary (Easton).

SAT 4 HONINGHAM

The Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy. Women's World Day of Prayer "I have heard about your faith". www.wwdp.org.uk

Prayer

Transform us O Christ,
that, like Peter,
we may hear you charging us
to shepherd your sheep:
may we too respond for love of you
by feeding the hungry
and tending the vulnerable.
Amen

(Above) Every Thursday, market day, Fakenham Parish Church offers a warm welcome at their café.

If you have a story to feature on a Sunday in a future diary,
please do get in touch! Email news@dioceseofnorwich.org

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