

This week ...

'Be on guard ... Be alert at all times ...' (Luke 21.34 and 36)

Watchfulness is a key theme in this Advent season and today Jesus' exhortation to keep our eyes peeled for the signs of the kingdom is particularly apt; let's pray that we are awake to all that points us to the coming King and his reign.

1 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane (*Scottish Episcopal Church*)
Diocese of Porvoo (*Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland*)
- **Anglican Communion:**
Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan
Primate: Abp Justin Badi Arama
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
Bishop Helen-Ann, Bishop of Newcastle and Bishop Mark, Bishop of Berwick
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Area Dean: Chris Grocock
Lay Chair: Janice Robinson

2 Monday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Kitale (Kenya)
Bp: Stephen Kewasis
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all those at Church House and Bishop's House who support the Bishops' work
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Deanery Secretary: Val Pope
Finance Officer: Linda Rudd

3 Tuesday

Francis Xavier, missionary, apostle of the Indies, 1552

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Kiteto (Tanzania)
Bp: Isaiah Chambala
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For Richard Whaite, Director of Mission and Ministry
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Ashington
Vicar: Chris Grocock
Reader: Paulette Thompson

4 Wednesday

John of Damascus, monk, teacher of the faith, c.749

Nicholas Ferrar, deacon, founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Kitgum (Uganda)
Bp Wilson Kitara
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
Archdeacons Rachel Wood (Northumberland) and Catherine Sourbut Groves (Lindisfarne)
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Bolam with Whalton & Hartburn with Meldon
Priest-in-Charge: Elaine Jones
Reader: Pamela Walker

5 Thursday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Kitui (Kenya)
Bp Josephat Mule
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For the work of education throughout our diocese and region in schools, universities, colleges and lay education
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
St Andrew's Church, Bolam
- **The Mothers' Union**
We pray this month for all Mothers' Union groups in the diocese, and for their leaders.

6 Friday

Nicholas, bishop of Myra, c.326 [*]

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Kivu (Rwanda)
Bp Augustin Ahimana
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For Newcastle Cathedral, and its worship, mission and ministry in the Diocese and city
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
St Andrew's Church, Hartburn
- * Lee Batson, Dean of Newcastle

7 Saturday

Ambrose, bishop of Milan, teacher of the faith, 397

Diuma, apostle to Mercia [CNS]

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Nord Kivu (Congo)
Bp Adolphe Muhindo Isesomo
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all those responsible for diocesan finance and parish giving
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Church of St John the Baptist, Meldon

This week ...

'... and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' (Luke 3.6)

Isaiah's prophetic word found expression hundreds of years later in the ministry of John the Baptist; let's pray that we might see the same today as we pray for those we know on the fringes of faith and for those who seem far from seeing salvation.

8 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Chester
Diocese of Kuopio (*Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland*)
- **Anglican Communion:**
Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan
Primate: Abp Ezekiel Kumir Kondo

- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all who guide candidates through selection and training for lay and ordained ministry
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Church of St Mary Magdalene, Whalton

9 Monday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Kobe (Nippon Sei Ko Kai)
Bp Augustine Naoaki Kobayashi
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For Stephen Tranter, and those working with him in nurturing vocations and the formation of ordination candidates
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Netherwitton
Priest-in-charge: Elaine Jones
Reader: Pam Walker

10 Tuesday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Koforidua (West Africa)
Bp Felix Odei Annancy
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all those involved in the development of Discipleship and Ministry for Mission
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Bothal and Pegswood with Longhirst
Rector: *vacant*

11 Wednesday

Ember Day

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Kolhapur (North India)
Bp Sandeep Suresh Vibhute
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all clergy and readers who continue to serve the Church in many ways beyond retirement
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
St Andrew's Church, Bothal

12 Thursday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Kollam-Kottarakkara (South India) Bp Oommen George

- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For teachers and students in the Lindisfarne College of Theology
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
St Margaret's Chapel, Pegswood (a Local Ecumenical Partnership)
- **Praying for Unity**
For all preparations being made for joint services and activities at Christmas and during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (begins on January 18th)

Embertide in Advent

In addition to our regular prayers for those in training for ordained or lay ministry, and all who support and encourage them, please pray this Advent:

- for Stephen Tranter in his work as Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations
- for those feeling a call to ministry, but who have not yet talked to anyone about it;
- for the Bishops' Advisers and all those preparing to attend a Panel in 2024.

13 Friday Ember Day

Lucy, martyr at Syracuse, 304
Samuel Johnson, moralist, 1784

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Kondoa (Tanzania)
Bp Given Gaula
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all who in church and community reach out to support and encourage children and young people
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Church of St John the Evangelist, Longhirst

14 Saturday Ember Day

John of the Cross, poet, teacher of the faith, 1591

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Kongor (South Sudan)
Bp Gabriel Thuch Agot

- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all who at diocesan and local level share in the care of church buildings
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Cresswell and Lynemouth and Widdrington
Priest-in-Charge: Julia Lacey
- William Leach Campus of the Northumberland C of E Academy

This week ...

'And the crowds asked him, "what then should we do?"' (Luke 3.10)

The crowds were convicted of their need for repentance and to do the right thing, and so John the Baptist gives examples of going the extra mile; doing the right thing seems harder to discern in our increasingly complex world, so let's pray for all those in power with significant decisions to make that they might bear good fruit.

15 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Borg (*Church of Norway*)
Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham
- **Anglican Communion:**
The Anglican Church of Tanzania
Primate: Abp Maimbo Mndolwa
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For the developing work and witness of our Resource Church at St Thomas' in Newcastle City Centre.
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Kirkwhelpington with Kirkharle and Kirkheaton and Cambo
Priest-in-Charge: Janet Parker

16 Monday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Kongor (South Sudan)
Bp Gabriel Thuch Agot
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all involved in building and promoting links and partnerships ecumenically, internationally and through inter-faith and ethnic relations

- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Holy Trinity Church, Cambo
- Cambo Primary School

17 Tuesday

O Sapientia

Eglantine Jebb, social reformer, founder of 'Save the Children', 1928

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Kontagora (Nigeria)
Bp Jonah Ibrahim
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all responsible for the safeguarding and protection of vulnerable people, including children
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
St Wilfred's Church, Kirkharle

18 Wednesday

O Adonai

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Kootenay (Canada)
Bp Lynne McNaughton
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all the Church's musicians and worship leaders, especially in the Advent and Christmas seasons
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
St Bartholomew's Church, Kirkwhelpington

19 Thursday

O Radix Jesse

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Eastern Kowloon
(*Hong Kong Sheng Fung Hui*)
Bp Timothy Kwok
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For those living with disabilities who need to rely on others to care for them and support them
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
St Bartholomew's Church, Kirkheaton
- **Praying for Unity**
For all that the churches seek to do together to bring hope to the homeless, needy, suffering and forgotten people of our region.

20 Friday

O Clavis David

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Western Kowloon
(*Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui*)
Abp Andrew Chan
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all engaged in ministries of healing, deliverance and pastoral care
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Longhorsley
Priest-in-Charge: *vacant*
Reader: Diane Armstrong

21 Saturday

O Oriens

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Krishna-Godavari (South India)
Bp George Cornelious Tanteputi
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all involved with the administration of trusts and charities in our diocese and local communities
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Mitford with Hebron
Priest-in-Charge: Elaine Jones
Readers: John Laurenson and Liz Hawkins
Readers PTO: Sean Fugill, Paul Kidd and Janice Robinson
- Longhorsley St Helen's C of E Primary School

This week ...

'And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ...' (Luke 1:41)

Mary and Elizabeth's beautiful encounter spills over into Spirit-filled praise; let's pray that our worship this Christmas draws people into the wonder of encounter with God and that our praise spills over into our lives and the lives of those who visit our churches.

22 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

O Rex Gentium

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Oslo (*Church of Norway*)
Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness (*Scottish Episcopal Church*)
Diocese of Durham
- **Anglican Communion:**
Church of the Province of Uganda
Primate: Abp Stephen Kaziimba
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all engaged in chaplaincy work in hospitals, schools, prisons, the armed forces, with older people and in Newcastle City Centre
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
St Mary Magdalene's Church, Mitford

23 Monday

O Emmanuel

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Kubwa (Nigeria)
Bp: Duke Akamisoko
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all involved in community action with homeless and destitute people this Christmas, including the food banks and shelters
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
St Cuthbert's Church, Hebron
- Tritlington C of E Primary School

24 CHRISTMAS EVE

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Kuching (South East Asia)
Bp: Danald Jute
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all engaged in evangelistic and faith-sharing projects this Christmas
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Morpeth
Rector: Simon White
Readers: Fiona Boyd, Harriet Gilfillan, Annie Newlands and Sharon Williams
Readers PTO: Val Cowan and Janet Hedley
- Morpeth All Saints C of E Primary School

25 CHRISTMAS DAY

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Kumasi (Uganda)
Bp Oscar Christian Amoah
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all spending this day alone
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
The Church of St James the Great, Morpeth

26 STEPHEN, DEACON, FIRST MARTYR

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Kumi (Uganda)
Bp Edison Irigei
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For our sisters and brothers in our Link Dioceses: Møre, Botswana and Winchester
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
St Mary's Parish Church, Morpeth
- **Praying for Unity**
For the work of the Society of Friends (Quakers) in our region

27 JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

*William, Lord Armstrong, industrialist, scientist and philanthropist, 1900 [CNS *]*

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Kurunegala (Sri Lanka)
Most Revd Nishantha Fernando
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all involved in the work of the Street Pastors, Samaritans and Childline
- **Morpeth Deanery**
St Aidan's Church, Stobhill, Morpeth
- * vacant canonry

28 THE HOLY INNOCENTS

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Kushtia (Bangladesh)
Most Revd Samuel Sunil Mankhin
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all involved in the continuing development of the church's ordained and lay ministers
- **Morpeth Deanery**
Benefice of Woodhorn with Newbiggin
Vicar: Anthony O'Grady

Assistant Curate: Deborah Ehala

Reader PTO: Carol Todd

- Grace Darling Campus of Northumberland C of E Academy

This week ...

'Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends.' (Luke 2.44)

Jesus of course was never lost, he was just not where he was expected to be; let's pray that we discover Jesus in more and more unexpected places, and even among our relatives and friends.

29 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Mikkeli (*Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland*)
Diocese of Chichester
- **Anglican Communion:**
The Episcopal Church in the USA
Presiding Bp: Sean Rowe
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all who support others through the ministry of spiritual direction
- **Morpeth Deanery**
Benefice of Seaton Hirst
Priest-in-Charge: Sam Lohead
- The Josephine Butler (Primary and Secondary), Thomas Bewick and James Knott Campuses of the Northumberland C of E Academy
- The Northumberland C of E Academy
Chief Executive: Alan Hardie
Chaplain: Sally Milner

30 Monday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Kutigi (Nigeria)
Bp Jeremiah Ndana Kolo
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For guidance and grace as we face the promises and challenges of a new year of **Seeking, Sharing, Sending**
- **Morpeth Deanery**
St Andrew's Church, Seaton Hirst

31 Tuesday

John Wyclif, reformer, 1384

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Kwara (Nigeria)
Bp Olusegun Adeyemi
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all members of the Diocesan Synod, the Bishop's Council and the Mission and Pastoral Committee
- **Morpeth Deanery**
St John's Church, Seaton Hirst

We will conclude our prayers for the Morpeth Deanery at the beginning of January.

**This Prayer Diary can be downloaded each month from the Newcastle diocesan website:
www.newcastle.anglican.org/prayerdiary**

About this Prayer Diary

We continue to include in the Prayer Diary all those commemorated in **Celebrating the Northern Saints**, [CNS] and to remember our lay, residentiary and honorary canons on the day of the saints and influential people who have given their canonry its designation and/or stall in the Cathedral.

Each week, there is a stimulus to prayer, normally based on the Sunday Gospel. This month's reflections are provided by Bishop Mark, Bishop of Berwick.

ON SUNDAYS

For each Sunday, we follow a well-established pattern:

- First are intercessions for the Porvoo Communion (<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/resources/493/porvoo-prayer-diary-2023>). The Porvoo Declaration commits the churches which have signed it to “share a common life” and “to pray for and with one another.”
- Second are intercessions from the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, available at www.anglicancommunion.org. Prayers on Sundays are for a Province of the Communion.
- Thirdly we pray for the life of our Diocese and those who work in the various departments.
- Lastly we remember those who lead the life and mission of the Morpeth Deanery, their churches, people and organisations, including Church Schools, where possible, on the same day as the parish of which they are part.

ON WEEKDAYS, the pattern is similar on weekdays, but without the Porvoo Communion:

- Firstly, dioceses from the Anglican Cycle of Prayer.
- Secondly, the Diocese of Newcastle in the many aspects of mission and ministry.
- Thirdly, parishes, churches, schools and other groups and areas of work in the Morpeth Deanery.
- On Thursdays, we pray for the work of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese (first week) and for Christian Unity (subsequent weeks).

We pray for our **Link Dioceses** as follows:

Botswana during January, April and October.

Møre during March, June and September.

Winchester during May, August and November.

The **Deaneries** are incorporated in the Prayer Diary in such a way as to include the **Benefices** (with names of ordained and lay ministers) and also, for benefices with more than one church, the constituent **churches**, in order that every congregation – and the local community in which it is set – can be remembered at least once during the year.

January	Morpeth (cont.) and Norham	July	Newcastle East
February	Bedlington	August	Newcastle West
March	Bellingham	September	Tynemouth
April	Corbridge	October	Alnwick
May	Hexham	November	Bamburgh & Glendale
June	Newcastle Central	December	Morpeth

I try to mark important days in the life of the Diocese (e.g. Diocesan Synods, Institutions and Licensings, ecumenical occasions) with a special note, but can only do so if I have the information early in the previous month. **Please don't hesitate to send me information and prompts in good time.**