

This week ...

'... all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.'
(Luke 2.17-18)

Luke's Gospel describes two responses to the good news of Jesus' birth: shepherds bursting with the news and Mary quietly meditating upon it. We will have our preference too, but let's pray that in the New Year to come we might be empowered in doing both these things, and even make a resolution to do so.

1 NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Bor (South Sudan)
Abp Moses Anur Ayom
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
Metlha Beleme, Diocesan Bishop
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
Bishop Helen-Ann, Bishop of Newcastle and Bishop Mark, Bishop of Berwick

2 Tuesday

Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, bishops, teachers of the faith, 379 and 389
Seraphim, monk of Sarov, spiritual guide, 1833
Vedaneyegam Samuel Azariah, bishop in South India, evangelist, 1945

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Botswana (Central Africa)
Bp Metlha Beleme
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
Theo Naledi, retired Bishop
- **Diocese of Newcastle:** Shane Waddle, Diocesan Secretary, and all who work at Church House, Percy Main

3 Wednesday

Roger Thornton, benefactor, 1430 [CNS] *

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Brandon (Canada): Bp William Cliff
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Gaborone:
Revd Dr Celestino Chishimba, Dean and Archdeacon (Cathedral), Revd Dr Mooketsi Mokgatlhe, Fr Jooste Motshwane and Fr Khalala Mokefane
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all who work at Bishop's House
- * Isabella McDonald Booth, Lay Canon, Chair of the House of Laity in the Diocesan Synod and General Synod

4 Thursday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Brechin (Scotland)
Bp Andrew Swift
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
St Barnabas Church, Old Naledi (served by the Cathedral of the Holy Cross)
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
Rachel Wood, Archdeacon of Northumberland
- **The Mothers' Union:**
We give thanks for the work of Mothers' Union during 2023 and pray for another year of supporting family life in the diocese.

5 Friday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Brisbane (Australia):
Abp Jeremy Greaves
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
Parish of Francistown:
Ven Isaac Mupfumi (Acting Archdeacon - North), Fr Samuel Moraloki, Fr Olebile James Galebotswe, Fr Lekono Malabola and Fr Tshiamo Takongwa
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
Catherine Sourbut Groves, Archdeacon of Lindisfarne

6 EPIPHANY

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Bristol Bp Vivienne Faull
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
Parish of Francistown: St Patrick's Church
and St Carantoc's Church
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Stannington St Mary the Virgin
Priest in Charge: Simon White

This coming week ...

'And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him.' (Mark 1.10)

The language of Mark's Gospel is very direct and dynamic: the heavens are 'torn apart' in the urgency to send the Spirit on Jesus at his baptism. Let's pray that we would know the empowering of the Holy Spirit in 2024 as God's beloved children, especially in all the ways we are seeking, sharing and sending as a diocese.

7 FIRST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Oulu (*Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland*)
Diocese of Sør-Hålogaland (*Church of Norway*)
Diocese of Coventry
- **Anglican Communion:**
The Scottish Episcopal Church
Primus: Most Revd Mark Strange
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
St Stephen's, Tonota, St Alban's, Moroka,
All Saints' Matsiloje and St Paul's Tati Siding
(all served by the Parish of Francistown)
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Ulgham
Assistant Curate: Julia Lacey
Reader: Jonathan Cummins

8 Monday

*John Dobson, architect, 1865 [CNS] **

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of British Columbia (*Canada*)
Bp Anna Greenwood-Lee

- **Diocese of Botswana:**
Christ the King, Orapa, St John's, Makaleng
and Sowa Town (served by the Parish of
Francistown)
- **Morpeth Deanery:**
Benefice of Widdrington
Priest in Charge: Julia Lacey

9 Tuesday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Central Buganda (*Uganda*)
Bp Michael Lubowa
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
Parish of St Andrew, Selebi Phikwe:
Ven Sefularo Mogopodi (*Archdeacon-Central*)
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
For all involved in the Deanery Planning
Process in the Morpeth and Norham
Deaneries

10 Wednesday

William Laud, archbishop of Canterbury, 1645

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of West Buganda (*Uganda*)
Bp Henry Katumba-Tamale
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
St Peter's, Mmadinare and Church of the
Good Shepherd (outstations of St Andrew's,
Selebi Phikwe)
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
All the members of the Diocesan Synod

11 Thursday

*Benedict Biscop, abbot of Wearmouth, scholar, 689 [CNS] **

Mary Slessor, missionary in West Africa, 1915

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Buhiga (*Burundi*)
Bp Evariste Nijimbere
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
St Augustine's Theological School:
Canon Professor James Amanze
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
Honorary Assistant Bishops:
Mark Bryant, Christopher Lowson,
John Packer and Stephen Platten
- * Peter Dobson, Residentiary Canon

12 Friday

Aelred, abbot of Hexham, abbot of Rievaulx, 1167
[CNS]

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Bujumbura (Burundi):
Bp Eraste Bigirimana
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
Parish of St Augustine, Serowe:
Fr Kealeboga Lekoba and
Fr Ford Godiraone Gaogane
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
Interim Education Director: Gill Booth and all
who work with her in supporting the many
Church schools in our Diocese

13 Saturday

Hilary, bishop of Poitiers, teacher of the faith, 367
*Kentigern (Mungo) missionary bishop in
Strathclyde and Cumbria, 603*
George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends (the
Quakers), 1691

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Bukavu (Congo)
Bp Sylvestre Bahati Balisusane
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
Parish of St James the Great, Mahalapye:
Fr Boikhutso Gabaraane
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**
The work of the Children's and Young
People's Work Support Team

This coming week ...

*'Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good
come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him,
"Come and see."' (John 1.46)*

The Season of Epiphany brings us scriptures
where the seeking of truth is rewarded by
revelation. 'Come and see' is the essential
Christian invitation to seek and to find. Let's
pray that in all our churches and chaplaincies
each of us might have the courage to invite
others to come and see in 2024.

14 SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

John the Chanter, monk and musician, c.681
[CNS] *

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Tampere (Evangelical Lutheran
Church of Finland)
Diocese of Manchester
- **Anglican Communion:**
Church of the Province of South East Asia
Primate: Most Revd Melter Jiki Tais
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
St Joseph, Shoshong and
St Ignatius of Loyola, Machaneng
(served by St James the Great, Mahalapye)
- **Norham Deanery:**
Area Dean: Sarah Hills
Lay Chair: Jane Pannell
- * Andrew Shipton, Vicar of All Saints,
Gosforth

15 Monday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Bukedi (Uganda)
Bp Samuel Egesa
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
Parish of St Mark, Lobatse:
Fr Octavious Bolelang and
Fr Godfrey Tsetsengwe
- **Norham Deanery:**
Deanery Secretary: Phil Rowett
Finance Officer: Jonathan Gibbs

16 Tuesday

Henry of Coquet Island, 1127 [CNS]

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Bukuru (Nigeria)
Bp Jwan Zhumbes
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
Parishes of St Mary Magdalene, Palapye and
St Cyprian, Seleka: Fr Abraham Kajane and
Fr George Moshapa
- **Norham Deanery:**
**Benefice of Berwick Holy Trinity and
St Mary**
Vicar: vacant
Assistant Curate: Thomas Sample
Reader: Anne Horne
- Berwick Holy Trinity C of E First School and
Berwick St Mary's C of E First School

17 Wednesday

Antony of Egypt, hermit, abbot, 356
Charles Gore, bishop, founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Bunbury (Australia)
Bp Ian Coutts
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
Parish of St Michael and All Angels, Broadhurst: Fr Bonny Bashe and Fr Patrick Rampha
- **Norham Deanery:**
Benefice of Cornhill with Carham
Priest-in-charge: Rob Kelsey

18 Thursday

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins

Amy Carmichael, founder of the Dohnavur Fellowship, spiritual writer, 1951

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Bungoma (Kenya)
Bp George Mechumo
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
St Matthew's, Mochudi (served by the Parish of St Michael and All Angels)
- **Norham Deanery:**
St Helen's Church, Cornhill
- For all ecumenical services and events taking place during this Week of Prayer

19 Friday

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Wulfstan, bishop of Worcester, 1095

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Bunyoro-Kitara (Uganda)
Bp Samuel Kahuma
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
Parish of St Paul, Molepolole:
Fr Botshabelo Beleme, Fr Joseph Khombane, Fr Motshereganyi Sefanyetsto, and Fr Western Medupe
- **Norham Deanery:**
St Cuthbert's Church, Carham
- For the Roman Catholic Church

20 Saturday

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Richard Rolle of Hampole, spiritual writer, 1349

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Busan (Korea)
Bp Onesimus Dongsin Park
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
St Thomas', Letlhakeng
(served by the Parish of St Paul, Molepolole)
- **Norham Deanery:**
Benefice of Branxton
Priest-in-Charge: Rob Kelsey
- For all churches in the Orthodox tradition

This coming week ...

'... (though the servants who had drawn the water knew) ...' (John 2.9)

Sometimes our asides give away our true feelings: here the gospel writer's aside draws us deeper into the truth of what it means to be a servant in the Kingdom of God seeing God at work behind the scenes. Let's pray that we might seek out those places and people where God is already at work and have our own eyes and hearts opened to what God is doing.

21 THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Dame Eleanor Allen, educationalist, 1708 [CNS]*

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Birmingham
Diocese of Elsinore (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark)
Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross (Church of Ireland)
- **Anglican Communion:**
The United Church of South India
Moderator: Most Revd Dharmaraj Rasalam
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
Parishes of St Andrew, Mmopane:
Fr Moreri Leteemane and Fr Onkemetse Sam Mathabathe,
and St James, Kopong and St Luke, Lentsweletau: Fr Paul Beleme
- **Norham Deanery:**
Benefices of Ford and Etal and Lowick and Kylloe with Ancroft
Priest-in-Charge: Charlotte Osborn
- For the worldwide Methodist Church
- * Julie Robson, Lay Canon

22 Monday

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Vincent of Saragossa, deacon, first martyr of Spain, 304

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Busoga (Uganda)
Bp Paul Moses Samson Naimanhye
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
Parishes of Holy Trinity, Mmankgodi:
Fr Munyaradzi Mubata
and St Matthew, Thamaga and St Mark,
Moshupa: Fr Solomon Diphoko
- **Norham Deanery:**
St Anne's Church, Ancroft
- For all Lutheran and Reformed Churches

23 Tuesday

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Central Busoga (Uganda)
Bp Patrick Wakula
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
Parish of St Peter, Mogoditshane:
Fr Ezekiel Nthokwa and Fr Joseph Supang
- **Norham Deanery:**
Church of St Mary the Virgin, Etal
- For the Salvation Army and the Society of Friends (the Quakers)

24 Wednesday

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Francis de Sales, bishop of Geneva, teacher of the faith, 1622

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Butare (Rwanda):
Bp Nathan Gasatura
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
Parishes of St John the Baptist, Gabane:
Fr Martin Mosima and Fr Moemedi Rabolo,
and St Patrick, Kumakwane:
Fr Bakang (Banks) Lesetedi
- **Norham Deanery:**
St Michael and All Angels' Church, Ford
- Hugh Joicey C of E First School, Ford
- For all churches in the Pentecostal and Charismatic traditions

25 CONVERSION OF PAUL

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Butere (Kenya)
Bp Rose Okeno
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
Parish of St Simon of Cyrene, Tiokweng:
Canon Joe Tsuaneng (Archdeacon – South),
Revd Dr Nelson Mwanikiand and
Fr Chris Mensah
- **Norham Deanery:**
St John's Church, Lowick
- Lowick and Holy Island C of E First School
- All Black, African and Ethnic Minority churches in Britain

26 Friday

Timothy and Titus, companions of Paul

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Buye (Burundi)
Abp Sixbert Macumi
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
Parish of St John the Baptist, Tsabong:
Fr Peter Moshapa and Fr Lucky Lorekang
- **Norham Deanery:**
Benefice of Holy Island
Vicar: Sarah Hills
Assistant Curate: Samantha Quilty
- Lowick and Holy Island C of E First School

27 Saturday

Holocaust Memorial Day

Theme: Fragility of Freedom

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Byumba (Rwanda)
Bp Emmanuel Ngendahayo
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
Villages with churches in the Tsabong area:
Khuis, Middlepits, Bogogobo and
Kolonkweng
- **Norham Deanery:**
Benefice of Norham and Duddo
Vicar: Rob Kelsey
- Norham St Ceowulf C of E First School

This coming week ...

'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?' (Mark 1.24)

The unclean spirit's question points to the deep, deep truth: that Jesus has everything to do with us and that he has come to destroy sin, death and evil. Let's pray that hearts and minds might be turned to seek forgiveness, healing and peace, especially where sin, death and evil seem to prevail in so many parts of our world.

28 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

- **Anglican Communion:**
The Anglican Church of Southern Africa
Primate: Abp Thabo Makgoba
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
Villages with churches in the Tsabong area: Maralaleng, Omaweneneno, Malashe and Khisa
- **Norham Deanery:**
Benefice of Scremerston and Spittal and Tweedmouth
Vicar: Rachel Hudson
Readers: Chris Hudson and Phil Rowett

29 Monday

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Bangor (*Church in Wales*)
Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough (*Church of Ireland*)

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Calabar (Nigeria)
Bp Nneoyi Egbe
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
Villages with churches in the Tsabong area: Draaiheok, Makapong and Werda
- **Norham Deanery:**
St Peter's Church, Scremerston

30 Tuesday

Charles, king and martyr, 1649

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Calcutta (United Church of North India) Bp Probal Kanto Dutta
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
New Church groups: Maun and Kasane (served by the Parish of Francistown)
- **Norham Deanery:**
St John's Church, Spittal

31 Wednesday

John Bosco, priest, founder of the Silesian Teaching Order, 1888

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Caledonia (Canada)
Bp David Lehmann
- **Diocese of Botswana:**
The strengthening of links between our dioceses
- **Norham Deanery:**
St Bartholomew's Church, Tweedmouth

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 short stimulus to prayer, normally based on the Sunday Gospel. Once again, we are grateful to Bishop Mark for this month's reflections.

ON SUNDAYS, we follow a well-established pattern:

- First are intercessions for the Porvoo Communion (<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/resources/493/porvoo-prayer-diary-2024>). 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 our link Diocese of Botswana.
- Fourthly we remember our own Diocese of Newcastle, and the Morpeth and Norham Deaneries, their churches, people and organisations, including Church Schools.

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

- Firstly, dioceses from the Anglican Cycle of Prayer
- Secondly, our link Diocese of Botswana
- Thirdly, our own Diocese, and the people, parishes, churches and schools in Morpeth and Norham Deaneries.
- On the first Thursday, we pray for the work of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese
- In January, we remember every day during the Week of Prayer for Unity our fellow Christians in many denominations of the worldwide Church.

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.**

Richard Hill

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