

# **Ross and Archenfield Deanery Prayer Diary**

## **Praying Together**

**1st Jan 2021— 2nd Feb 2021**

### **Welcome**

What better way to start 2021 than praying together! We may still be in the throws of COVID-19 and it has shaped and reshaped the way we live though 2020.

As we start a new year, with a new hope and the possibility of vaccinations means that we may soon be able to meet, sing and pray together!

But there is still a place for private prayer. This prayer Diary, helping us to look at our whole Deanery and uphold one another in prayer, is a way we can spend just a short time of each day remembering each other.

I hope you will find this diary useful and a support to your own spiritual life and growth as we step into the new year.

With every blessing,

Revd Mark Johnson

Rural Dean

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 The Naming of Jesus**

**Scripture: Luke 2 v 21**

*<sup>21</sup>After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.*

**Prayer:** *Almighty God,  
whose blessed Son was circumcised  
in obedience to the law for our sake  
and given the Name that is above every name:  
give us grace faithfully to bear his Name,  
to worship him in the freedom of the Spirit,  
and to proclaim him as the Saviour of the world;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

**For our Prayers:** *All who are making resolutions, that they might have the persistence to fulfil them.*

**Across our Deanery:** *Whitchurch Primary School and for the Head, staff and pupils.*

**Saturday 2nd January Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus**

**Scripture: John 10 verses 11– 15**

Jesus said to the Pharisees: <sup>11</sup>I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away – and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

**Prayer:** *Lord God,  
whose servants Basil and Gregory  
proclaimed the mystery of your Word made flesh,  
to build up your Church in wisdom and strength:  
grant that we may rejoice in his presence among us,  
and so be brought with them to know the power  
of your unending love;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

**For our Prayers:** *Those who lead the church, Archbishop Justin, Bishop Richard,  
Archdeacons Derek and Fiona*

**Across our Deanery:** *St. John the Baptist Aston Ingham in the Ariconium Benefice, Church*

Officers and congregation

**Sunday 3rd January: Second Sunday of Christmas**

***Scripture John 1 verses 14—17***

14And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. 15(John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') 16From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

***Prayer:*** Almighty God,  
in the birth of your Son  
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word,  
and shown us the fullness of your love:  
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love  
that we may know the fullness of his joy;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

***For our Prayers:*** Those who are in fuel poverty across our Deanery and those worried by debt as we entre the new year. Christians Against Poverty and their advisors and workers.

***Across the Deanery:*** All Saints, Bishopswood in the Wye Reaches Benefice and for its future.

**Monday 4th January**

***Scripture: Psalm 4 verses 4– 5***

<sup>4</sup>When you are disturbed, do not sin;  
it on your beds, and be silent. *Selah*  
<sup>5</sup>Offer right sacrifices,  
put your trust in the LORD.

***For our Prayers:*** For ourselves and the way we relate to those around us, our sins of omission and commission.

***Across the Deanery:*** St. Michael and All Angels, Brampton Abbots. For its future and those working for its regeneration. For the people in the village of Brampton Abbots.

**Tuesday 5th January**

***Scripture: Psalm 4 verses 6 –8***

<sup>6</sup>There are many who say, 'O that we might see some good!  
the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!'  
<sup>7</sup>You have put gladness in my heart  
than when their grain and wine abound.

I will both lie down and sleep in peace;  
for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

**For our Prayers:** *That we may sleep well, and for those who struggle with insomnia or nightmares.*

**Across the Deanery:** St. Bridget, Bridstow. For the village, Bridstow C of E Primary School and the village.

### **Wednesday 5th January     The Epiphany**

**Scripture:** *Matthew 2 11—12*

<sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Prayer:** *O God,  
who by the leading of a star  
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:  
mercifully grant that we,  
who know you now by faith,  
may at last behold your glory face to face;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

**For our Prayers:** *For the gifts that God has given us and that we may use them for the growing of God's kingdom.*

**Across the Deanery:** St. Michael and All Angel's, Dewsall and St. Mary Callow (closed). For those in the village of Callow and for those getting married at Dewsall Court and Dewsall Church.

### **Thursday 7th January**

**Scripture:** *Psalms 5 verses 1– 3*

<sup>1</sup>Give ear to my words, O LORD;  
heed to my sighing.

<sup>2</sup>Listen to the sound of my cry,  
King and my God,  
to you I pray.

<sup>3</sup>O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice;  
in the morning I plead my case to you, and watch.

***For our Prayers:** Those who struggle with their faith, those who doubt, those who have fallen away. For them to hear God's call.*

**Across our Deanery:** St. Peter's Dixton. For the PCC and those working to restore the church.

**Friday 8th January**

**Scripture:** Psalm 5 verses 4—6

<sup>4</sup>For you are not a God who delights in wickedness;  
will not sojourn with you.

<sup>5</sup>The boastful will not stand before your eyes;  
hate all evildoers.

<sup>6</sup>You destroy those who speak lies;  
LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful.

***For our Prayers:** For a humble spirit as we pray to God, that we may not try to be spiritually superior to those around us.*

**Across the Deanery:** St. Mary's, Foy. For the hamlet of Foy and for those who canoe down the Wye past the church

**Saturday 9th January**

**Scripture:** Psalm 5 verses 7—8

<sup>7</sup>But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love,  
enter your house,  
I will bow down towards your holy temple  
awe of you.

<sup>8</sup>Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness  
of my enemies;  
make your way straight before me.

***For our Prayers:** For the places we find special, where we can sense God and feel his presence.*

**Across the Deanery:** St. Swithin, Ganarew. For the people of the village and the care home next to the church.

**Sunday 10th January Baptism of Christ**

**Scripture:** Mark 1 9—11

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

<sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

**Prayer:** Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus

revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

***For our Prayers:***      *For all those who were hoping to be baptised in the last few months and for parents and Godparents who want their children to be part of God's family.*

***Across the Deanery:*** St. Michael and All Angel's, Garway. For those who worship there, those who live in Garway and those looking to the future of the church building.

**Monday 11th January Mary Slessor (d. 1915), Missionary**

***Scripture:***      *Isaiah 52 verses 7*

*How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'*

***For our Prayers:***      *All who work in Nigeria to bring about the development of the country, those who campaign against corruption, the people of Akpap Okoyong where Mary carried out her missionary work.*

***Across the Deanery:*** St. Giles', Goodrich and St. Margaret's, Welsh Bicknor. For the people of the villages, for Goodrich C of E School and for visitors to Goodrich Castle.

**Tuesday 12th January      Aelred of Hexham**

***Scripture:***      *Psalms 119 verses 62—64*

<sup>62</sup>At midnight I will rise to give you thanks,  
because of your righteous judgements.

<sup>63</sup>I am a companion of all those who fear you,  
those who keep your commandments.

<sup>64</sup>The earth, O Lord, is full of your faithful love;  
instruct me in your statutes.

**Prayer:** Almighty God,  
who endowed Aelred the abbot  
with the gift of Christian friendship  
and the wisdom to lead others in the way of holiness:  
grant to your people that same spirit of mutual affection,

so that, in loving one another,  
we may know the love of Christ  
and rejoice in the eternal possession  
of your supreme goodness;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**For our Prayers:** For the people of Hexham and surroundings. For our relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ who worship in a different style.

**Across our Deanery:** St. Michael and All Angels', Hope Mansell. For the people who live and work in the village.

### **Wednesday 13th January Hilary**

**Scripture:** 1 John 2 23—25

<sup>23</sup>No one who denies the Son has the Father; everyone who confesses the Son has the Father also. <sup>24</sup>Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you will abide in the Son and in the Father. <sup>25</sup>And this is what he has promised us, eternal life.

**Prayer:** Everlasting God,  
whose servant Hilary  
steadfastly confessed your Son Jesus Christ  
to be both human and divine:  
grant us his gentle courtesy  
to bring to all the message of redemption  
in the incarnate Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**For our Prayers:** For theologians and teachers of the faith, for those who speak with a Christian faith in the media.

**Across the Deanery:** St. Andrew with St. Mary, How Caple. For those who live in the village and surrounding farms.

### **Thursday 14th January**

**Scripture:** Psalm 5 verses 9—10

<sup>9</sup>For there is no truth in their mouths;  
hearts are destruction;  
their throats are open graves;  
flatter with their tongues.

<sup>10</sup>Make them bear their guilt, O God;  
them fall by their own counsels;  
because of their many transgressions cast them out,  
they have rebelled against you.

**For our Prayers:** For sincerity and honesty in all that we do and in the relationships we have with people.

**Across our Deanery:** St. John the Baptist, Kings Caple and for those who live in the village

### **Friday 15th January**

**Scripture:** Psalm 5 verses 11– 12

<sup>11</sup>But let all who take refuge in you rejoice;  
them ever sing for joy.  
Spread your protection over them,  
that those who love your name may exult in you.

<sup>12</sup>For you bless the righteous, O LORD;  
cover them with favour as with a shield.

**For our Prayers:** *That we may shelter under the cover of your wing from misfortune and find peace for our souls.*

**Across our Deanery:** St. Mary's, Linton and those who live and work in the village.

### **Saturday 16th January**

**Scripture:** Psalm 6 verses 1—3

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger,  
discipline me in your wrath.  
<sup>2</sup>Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing;  
LORD, heal me, for my bones are shaking with terror.  
<sup>3</sup>My soul also is struck with terror,  
you, O LORD—how long?

**For our Prayers:** *That we may find peace and forgiveness in the presence of God, who gave up his only Son for us.*

**Across our Deanery:** St. Mary's, Little Birch and for those who live in the village. For the Village Hall and all working to improve it.

### **Sunday 17th January Second Sunday of Epiphany**

**Scripture:** John 1 verses 43– 45

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.'  
<sup>44</sup>Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.'

**Prayer:** Almighty God,  
in Christ you make all things new:  
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,  
and in the renewal of our lives  
make known your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**For our Prayers:** *That we may follow Jesus with faithfulness and constancy all the days of our lives.*

**Across our Deanery:** St. Junabius, Llandinabo and all who work in the area, especially the orchards and soft fruit businesses.

**Monday 18th January      Start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

**Scripture:** *Genesis 12 verses 1—4*

<sup>1</sup>Now the LORD said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ <sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

**Prayer:** Jesus Christ,  
you seek us, you wish to offer us your friendship  
and lead us to a life that is ever more complete.  
Grant us the confidence to answer your call  
so that we may be transformed  
and become witnesses of your tenderness for the world. Amen.

**For our Prayers:** *When God has called us to go in a new direction. And where is he calling us to be today?*

**Across our Deanery:** St. Deinst, Llangarron and for all who live in the village.

**Tuesday 19th January      Wulfstan**

**Scripture:** *Matthew 24 verses 45—46*

<sup>45</sup>‘Who then is the faithful and wise slave, whom his master has put in charge of his household, to give the other slaves their allowance of food at the proper time? <sup>46</sup>Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives.’

**Prayer:** Lord God,  
who raised up Wulfstan to be a bishop among your people  
and a leader of your Church:

help us, after his example,  
to live simply,  
to work diligently  
and to make your kingdom known;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

***For our Prayers:***      *For the people of Worcester, for all those called into leadership positions in our local and national church.*

***Across our Deanery:***      Christ Church, Llangrove, the Llangrove Academy School and the village with its pub.

**Wednesday 20th January—Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

***Scripture:***      *Colossians 3 verses 12—17*

<sup>12</sup>As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

<sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

<sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

***Prayer:***      God our Father,  
you reveal to us your love through Christ  
and through our brothers and sisters.  
Open our hearts so that we can welcome each other  
with our differences and live in forgiveness.  
Grant us to live united in one body,  
so that the gift that is each person comes to light.  
May all of us together be a reflection of the living Christ.  
Amen.

***For our Prayers:***      *That we may witness to our faith in all that we do and the way we relate to those around us.*

***Across our Deanery:***      *Christ Church, Llanwarne and St. John the Baptist (ruin), Llanwarne and for all working to restore the village hall.*

**Thursday 20th January      Agnes**

***Scripture:***      *Revelation 7 verses 16—17*

<sup>16</sup>They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat;  
<sup>17</sup>for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

**Prayer:** Eternal God, shepherd of your sheep,  
whose child Agnes was strengthened to bear witness  
in her living and her dying  
to the true love of her redeemer:  
grant us the power to understand, with all your saints,  
what is the breadth and length and height and depth  
and to know the love that surpasses knowledge,  
even Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**For our Prayers:** *All who are suffering persecution because of their faith.*

**Across our Deanery:** St. Matthew, Marstow and for those who live in the village.

**Friday 22nd January Week of prayer for Christian Unity**

**Scripture:** *Matthew 5 verses 1– 12*

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Prayer:** Blessed are you, God our Father,  
for the gift of your word in Holy Scripture.  
Blessed are you for its transforming power.  
Help us choose life and guide us by your Spirit,  
so that we can experience the happiness which you want so much to share with us. Amen.

**For our Prayers:**        *That our lives may be a blessing to those around us.*

**Across our Deanery:** St. Mary and St. Thomas a Becket, Much Birch, for all who live in the village and those who work at the surgery.

**Saturday 23rd January Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

**Scripture:**        *Genesis 18 verses 1—5*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup>He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. <sup>3</sup>He said, ‘My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup>Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. <sup>5</sup>Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.’ So they said, ‘Do as you have said.’

**Prayer:**        Jesus Christ,  
we desire to welcome fully the brothers and sisters who are with us.  
You know how often we feel helpless in the face of their suffering,  
yet you are always there ahead of us  
and you have already received them in your compassion.  
Speak to them through our words, support them through our actions,  
and let your blessing rest on us all. Amen.

**For our Prayers:**        *That we may offer hospitality to those around us.*

**Across our Deanery:** St. David, Much Dewchurch and for those who live in the village. For Charnwood Nursing Home and the residents and staff.

**Sunday 24th January Third Sunday of Epiphany**

**Scripture:**        *Genesis 14 verses 18—20*

<sup>18</sup>And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. <sup>19</sup>He blessed him and said,  
‘Blessed be Abram by God Most High,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
<sup>20</sup>and blessed be God Most High,  
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!’  
And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

**Prayer:**        Almighty God,  
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles  
the wonder of your saving presence:  
renew your people with your heavenly grace,  
and in all our weakness  
sustain us by your mighty power;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**For our Prayers:**      *For all who pray for us.*

**Across our Deanery:** St. John the Baptist, Orcop and all who live in the village. For the village hall and the events that take place there,

**Monday 25th January      Conversion of St. Paul**

**Scripture:**      *Acts 9 verses 10—12*

<sup>10</sup>Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' <sup>11</sup>The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, <sup>12</sup>and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.'

**Prayer:**      Almighty God,  
who caused the light of the gospel  
to shine throughout the world  
through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul:  
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion  
may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**For our Prayers:**      *Those who give us unexpected blessings and those whom we are called to bless.*

**Across our Deanery:** St. Denys, Pencoyd, St. Mary, Tretire and St. Michael and All Angels, Michaelchurch (closed). For all who live and farm in the area.

**Tuesday 26th January      Timothy and Titus**

**Scripture:**      *Luke 10 verses 1—2*

<sup>1</sup>The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. <sup>2</sup>He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

**Prayer:**      Heavenly Father,  
who sent your apostle Paul to preach the gospel,  
and gave him Timothy and Titus  
to be his companions in faith:

grant that our fellowship in the Holy Spirit  
may bear witness to the name of Jesus,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**For our Prayers:** *That our lives may bear witness to God's work.*

**Across our Deanery:** St. Peter, Peterstow, for the dual use of the church, those who rely on the local shop and those who live in the village.

**Wednesday 27th January**

**Scripture:** *Psalm 6 verses 6—7*

<sup>6</sup>I am weary with my moaning;  
night I flood my bed with tears;  
drench my couch with my weeping.  
<sup>7</sup>My eyes waste away because of grief;  
grow weak because of all my foes.

**For our Prayers:** *Those struggling with depression and all who work in psychiatric nursing and medicine.*

**Across our Deanery:** St. Mary, Ross-on-Wye, for all who live in the town and those moving into the new housing. For Christine the Intergenerational Missioner and the church outreach to young people.

**Thursday 27th January      Thomas Aquinas**

**Scripture:** *Wisdom of Solomon 7 verses 8—10*

<sup>7</sup>I prayed, and understanding was given me; I called on God, and the spirit of wisdom came to me. <sup>8</sup>I preferred her to sceptres and thrones, and I accounted wealth as nothing in comparison with her. <sup>9</sup>Neither did I liken to her any priceless gem, because all gold is but a little sand in her sight, and silver will be accounted as clay before her.

**Prayer:**      Eternal God,  
who enriched your Church with the learning and holiness  
of your servant Thomas Aquinas:  
give to all who seek you  
a humble mind and a pure heart  
that they may know your Son Jesus Christ  
as the way, the truth and the life;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**For our Prayers:** *That we may recognise where true wealth lies and seek wisdom.*

**Across our Deanery:** *St. Tysilio, Sellack and for all who live in the village and farm the local area.*

**Friday 29th January**

**Scripture:** *Psalm 6 verses 8—10*

<sup>8</sup>Depart from me, all you workers of evil,  
the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping.

<sup>9</sup>The LORD has heard my supplication;  
LORD accepts my prayer.

<sup>10</sup>All my enemies shall be ashamed and struck with terror;  
shall turn back, and in a moment be put to shame.

**For our Prayers:** *That we may be open minded and open hearted to receive God's blessing.*

**Across our Deanery:** *St. Michael, Sollers Hope and for those who live and work in the area.*

**Saturday 30th January** **Charles**

**Scripture:** *Ecclesiasticus 2 verses 13—15*

<sup>13</sup>Woe to the faint-hearted who have no trust! Therefore they will have no shelter. <sup>14</sup>Woe to you who have lost your nerve! What will you do when the Lord's reckoning comes? <sup>15</sup>Those who fear the Lord do not disobey his words, and those who love him keep his ways.

**Prayer:** King of kings and Lord of lords,  
whose faithful servant Charles  
prayed for those who persecuted him  
and died in the living hope of your eternal kingdom:  
grant us by your grace so to follow his example  
that we may love and bless our enemies,  
through the intercession of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**For our Prayers:** *That we may walk close to Jesus today.*

**Across our Deanery:** *St. Weonard, St. Weonards and for the local shop, St. Weonards Primary School, the village hall and the village.*

**Sunday 31st January** **Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**

**Scripture:** *Mark 1 verses 21—22*

<sup>21</sup>The disciples went to Capernaum; and when the Sabbath came, Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

**Prayer:** God our creator,  
who in the beginning  
commanded the light to shine out of darkness:  
we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ  
may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,  
shine into the hearts of all your people,  
and reveal the knowledge of your glory  
in the face of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**For our Prayers:** *That we may walk each day in the light of Christ.*

**Across our Deanery:** *St. John the Baptist, The Lea and all who live and work in the village.*

**Monday 1st February**

**Scripture:** *Psalm 7 verses 1—2*

<sup>1</sup>O LORD my God, in you I take refuge;  
me from all my pursuers, and deliver me,  
<sup>2</sup>or like a lion they will tear me apart;  
will drag me away, with no one to rescue.

**For our Prayers:** *That in the busyness of this day and all that we feel we have to do,  
we may still find time to be with God.*

**Across our Deanery:** *St. John the Baptist, Upton Bishop, for those who live in the village, for the  
local pub and the village hall.*

**Tuesday 2nd February      Candlemas**

**Scripture:** *Luke 2 verses 27 - 33*

<sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child  
Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and  
praised God, saying,  
<sup>29</sup>'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in  
the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people  
Israel.' <sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

**Prayer:** Almighty and ever-living God,  
clothed in majesty,  
whose beloved Son  
was this day presented in the Temple,  
in substance of our flesh:  
grant that we may be presented to you

with pure and clean hearts,  
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**For our Prayers:** That we respond to the promptings of God's Spirit.

***Across our Deanery:*** *St. Michael and All Angels, Walford and for all who live in the village, for the local shops and pubs and the local school.*

**Our Deanery Prayer:**

***Living God,  
who breathed into your disciples  
the power of the Holy Spirit,  
and so equipped them for the work of mission  
through love and service;  
Renew in our churches a vision of your kingdom  
where all things are made new,  
and justice and peace will reign;  
and grant us grace and strength to proclaim this good news,  
won for us through the love of our Saviour,***

***Jesus Christ.***

***Amen.***

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Deanery***