

## NOTES:

Where parochial links are known to exist the names of overseas workers are placed immediately after the appropriate parish. Further information concerning overseas dioceses, including the names of bishops, is contained in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, available on their website [www.anglicancommunion.org/resources/cycle-of-prayer.aspx](http://www.anglicancommunion.org/resources/cycle-of-prayer.aspx)

## ABBREVIATIONS:

A Assistant Clergy; AAD Assistant Area Dean; AC Associate Priest/Minister; AD Area Dean; AM Assistant Minister; AR Associate Rector; AV Associate Vicar; AYO Area Youth Officer, BMO Bishop's Mission Order; BP Bishop; CA Church Army; CIC Curate in Charge; CHP Chaplain; EVN Evangelist; HT Head Teacher; LLM Licensed Lay Minister; MCD Minister of Conventional District; MIC Minister in Charge; PEV Provincial Episcopal Visitor; PIC Priest in Charge; PP Public Preacher; R Rector; RD Rural Dean; Rdes Rector designate; RDR Reader; PTO Permission to Officiate; RES Residuary Canon; Sr Sister, TM Team Ministry; TR Team Rector; TV Team Vicar; V Vicar; Vdes Vicar designate; WDN Warden.



Follow our daily prayers on Twitter @chelmsdio #chelmsdio\_cop and on our website [www.chelmsford.anglican.org/wepray](http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/wepray).

The contribution of Mrs Jenny Robinson to compiling the prayers in WE PRAY is gratefully acknowledged.

## CONTACT:

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The Church of England  
in Essex and East London  
Diocese of Chelmsford

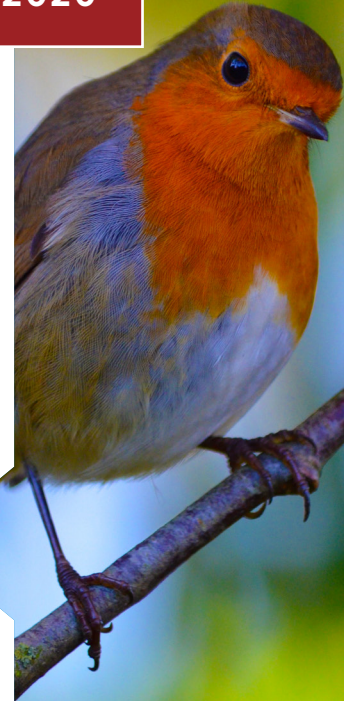


The Diocesan Office, 53 New Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1AT  
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# WEPRAY

DEC 2019 - JAN 2020

## Praying for each other in Essex & East London



Chelmsford Diocese Prayer Diary

#chelmsdioprayers

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# December

## Sun 1 The First Sunday of Advent

"Keep us, O Lord, while we tarry on this earth, in a serious seeking after thee, and in an affectionate walking with thee, every day of our lives; that when thou comest, we may be found not hiding our talent, nor serving the flesh, nor yet asleep with our lamp unfurnished, but waiting and longing for our Lord, our glorious King, for ever and ever." Richard Baxter (1615-91)

*PRAY for Mission Agencies and their work throughout the Anglican Communion*

## Mon 2 The Deanery of Dunmow & Stansted

Area Dean: Cilla Hawkes. Lay Chair: Belle Beszant.

Chaplain: Robert Buries (London Stansted Airport).

Pray for the Chaplaincy at London Stansted Airport and all who work there.

*The Dioceses of Seoul (Korea) and Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador (Canada)*

## Tue 3 Francis Xavier, Missionary, Apostle of the Indies, 1552

The South Rodings: Abbess Roding (St Edmund), Beauchamp Roding (St Botolph), White Roding (St Martin), Leaden Roding (St Michael)

Clergy: Vacancy (PIC).

Felsted (Holy Cross) and Little Dunmow (St Mary the Virgin)

Clergy: Colin Taylor (V). Reader: Joanna Pratt.

Felsted School: Nigel Little (CHP)

*The Dioceses of Seychelles (Indian Ocean) and Eastern Oregon (The Episcopal Church)*

## Wed 4 John of Damascus, Monk, Teacher of the Faith, c. 749 Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, Founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637

Broxted w Chickney (St Mary Vn) and Tilty (St Mary Vn) and Great Easton (St John & St Giles) and Little Easton Clergy: Tim Goodbody (PIC), Cilla Hawkes (AD, AC), Susan Hurley (A), Janet Parker (A).

Great Easton School: Claire Jackman (HT).

Great Bardfield (St Mary Vn) and Little Bardfield (St Katharine)

Clergy: Robert Beaken (PIC).

*The Dioceses of Sheffield (England), Eastern Zambia (Central Africa) and Easton (The Episcopal Church)*

## Tue 28 Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1274

Waltham Abbey TM: Waltham Abbey (Holy Cross & Ninefields St Lawrence), High Beach (Holy Innocents), Upshire (St Thomas)

Clergy: Peter Smith (TR), Trevor Scott (AC), Joyce Smith, (AD, AC), Jane Begley (A), Alexandra Guest (A).

High Beech School: Sarah Roffey (HT).

Hillhouse School: Jo Willcox (HT).

*The Dioceses of Long Island (The Episcopal Church), Swansea & Brecon (Wales) and Guadalcanal (Melanesia)*

## Wed 29 Loughton (St Michael & All Angels)

Clergy: Lydia Pettit (V); Mark Pettit (AC), Lorraine Smart (AC), Elizabeth Price (A).

*The Dioceses of Los Angeles (The Episcopal Church) and Swaziland (Southern Africa)*

## Thu 30 Charles, King and Martyr, 1649

Blackmore (St Laurence) w Stondon Massey (St Peter and St Paul)

Clergy: Sam Brazier-Gibbs (V). Reader: Anthea Gray.

*The Dioceses of Louisiana (The Episcopal Church), Sydney (Australia) and Tabora (Tanzania)*

## Fri 31 John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888

Chipping Ongar (St Martin) w Shelley (St Peter); Greensted juxta Ongar (St Andrew); Stanford Rivers (St Margaret) Clergy: Noelle Taylor (R), Neil Taylor (AC), Jane Quinton (A). LLM: Shirley Dudeney.

*The Dioceses of Luapula (Central Africa) and Taita-Taveta (Kenya)*

**Fri 24 Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher of the Faith, 1622**  
Loughton (St Mary Vn) Clergy: Malcolm Macdonald (V), Steve Opie (A).  
Readers: Pat Laker, Brenda Miller.

*The Dioceses of Lokoja (Nigeria) and St Mark the Evangelist (Southern Africa)*

**Sat 25 The Conversion of St Paul**

Whatever else, Paul of Tarsus is one of the most remarkable figures in early Christianity.

He is sometimes portrayed as a misogynist bigot, but if you read his letters you will see that he is passionate to communicate the extraordinary, inclusive and unbounded love of God – a God who comes to us in Jesus Christ to break down all the walls that divide us.

*The Dioceses of Lomega (South Sudan), Sunyani (West Africa) and Grahamstown (Southern Africa)*

**Sun 26 The Third Sunday of Epiphany**

Please pray for the Spiritual Direction Co-ordinating Group and all who minister as Spiritual Directors.

*PRAY for the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil, The Most Revd Naudal Alves Gomes, Primate of Brazil & Bishop of Curitiba*

**Mon 27** The Theydon Parishes: Theydon Bois (St Mary Vn), Theydon Garnon (All Saints), Stapleford Tawney St Mary the Virgin w Theydon Mount St Michael. Clergy: John Fry (V), Carol Newnham (AC).  
LLM: Martyn Lockwood.

*The Diocese of London (England)*

**Thu 5** Great Dunmow (St Mary Vn) w Barnston (St Andrew)  
Clergy: Vacancy (PIC), Lea Williams (A). LLM: Nigel Warren.

St Mary's Primary School: Clare Griffiths (HT).

Great Canfield (St Mary Vn) w High Roding (All Saints) and Aythorpe Roding (St Mary Vn) Clergy: Vacancy (PIC).

**Also:** High Easter (St Mary Vn) and Good Easter (St Andrew) w Margaret Roding (St Margaret of Antioch) Clergy: Vacancy (PIC).

*The Dioceses of Shinyanga (Tanzania) and Eau Claire (The Episcopal Church)*

**Fri 6 Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c.326**

Stebbing (St Mary Vn) & Lindsell (St Mary Vn) w Great Saling (St James) and Little (Bardfield) Saling (St Peter & St Paul) Clergy: Tim Goodbody (PIC),

Cilla Hawkes (AD, AC), Helen Pelly (AC), Susan Hurley (A).

LLM: Kate Green, Paul Green.

Takeley (Holy Trinity) w Little Canfield (All Saints)

Clergy: Rob Burles (PIC). LLM: Hugh Mascetti.

*The Dioceses of Shyira (Rwanda) and Edinburgh (Scotland)*

**Sat 7 Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher of the Faith, 397**

Advent is very different from Lent – and although today in churches that wear vestments both Advent and Lent are in purple, Advent used to have its own distinctive colour! Because it is different. Advent is not about prayer and penitence but about hope and expectation.

In Advent we are waiting in hope, looking forward in expectation for the coming of Christ. So it's a fantastic time to do some spiritual house cleaning. Simply ask yourself if you are ready for Christ rather than whether you are ready for Christmas.

*The Dioceses of Shyira (Rwanda) and Edmonton (Canada)*

**Sun 8 The Second Sunday of Advent**

Pray for all who work in radio or television, the work of Premier Radio, and all stations relating to the Diocese.

PRAY for the work of the Mothers' Union around the World:

Sheren Harper – Worldwide President, Bev Jullien – Chief Executive

**Mon 9** Stansted Mountfitchet (St John) w Birchanger (St Mary Vn) & Farnham (St Mary Vn) Clergy: Paul Wilkin (R), Helen Flack (A).

St Mary's School, Stansted: Matthew Curzon (DHT).

The Retired clergy, Readers and Lay Ministers who live and work in the Deanery of Dunmow and Stansted.

*The Dioceses of Shyogwe (Rwanda), Egba, and Lafia (Nigeria)*

**Tue 10** **The Deanery of Harwich**

Area Dean: Simon Heron. Lay Chair: John Baker.

Gillian Morgan (CHP, St Helena Hospice).

*The Dioceses of Sialkot (Pakistan) and Egba West (Nigeria)*

**Wed 11** **Ember Day**

Dedham (St Mary Virgin) and Ardleigh (St Mary the Virgin)

Clergy: Antony Wilson (PIC).

Dedham School: James Aylott (HT).

St Mary's School, Ardleigh: Donna Parker (HT).

Harwich Peninsula Team Ministry: Dovercourt (All Saints) & Parkeston (St Paul), Harwich

(St Nicholas), Ramsey (St Michael) w Little Oakley (St Mary Vn)

Clergy: Margaret Shaw (TR), Lisselle Clarke-Moisley (A).

LLM: Sioux Thorpe, John Wallace.

All Saints School, Dovercourt: Mark Millbourne (HT).

Two Village School, Ramsey/Little Oakley: Natasha Bennett (HT).

*The Dioceses of Singapore (South East Asia), Egbu (Nigeria) and Egypt (Jerusalem & Middle East)*

**Thu 12** Great Oakley (All Saints) w Wix (St Mary) & Wrabness (All Saints), Tendring (St Edmund), and Beaumont-cum-Moze (St Leonard)

Clergy: Liz Barnes (PIC), Kirsty Emerson (A), Laura Garnham (A).

All Saints School, Great Oakley: Aaron Battersby (HT).

*The Dioceses of Sittwe (Myanmar) and Eha – Amufu (Nigeria)*

**Mon 20** **Richard Rolle, Spiritual Writer, 1349**

Buckhurst Hill (St John, St Stephen, St Elisabeth)

Clergy: Ian Farley (TR), Tania Payne (A). Reader: Steve Bacon.

St John's School: Peter Tidmarsh (HT).

*The Diocese of Litoral Ecuador (The Episcopal Church), St Albans (England), and Gombe (Nigeria)*

**Tue 21** **Agnes, Child Martyr at Rome, 304**

Vale of Roding Team Ministry: Chigwell (St Mary) Chigwell (St Winifred),

Chigwell Row (All Saints), Lambourne (St Mary & All Saints) w Abridge

(Holy Trinity) and Stapleford Abbots (St Mary Vn) Clergy: Vacancy (TR),

Roger Gayler (TV), Paula Preston (TV), Elise Peterson (A). LLM: Sandie

Forshaw.

Chigwell School: Gary Scott (CHP).

*The Dioceses of Liverpool (England), St Asaph (Wales) and Grafton (Australia)*

**Wed 22** **Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, Martyr, 304**

Epping District TM: Epping (St John), Epping Upland (All Saints),

Coopersale (St Alban) Clergy: Lee Batson (TR), Olivia Maxfield-Coote

(TV), Tom Warmington (A). LLM: Diana Lowry, Steven Snooks.

Reader: Robert Taylor.

St John's Comprehensive School: Allan Osborne (HT).

Epping Upland School: Sarah Hurwood (HT).

Coopersale & Theydon Garnon School: Dale Bateman (HT).

*The Diocese of St Davids (Wales)*

**Thu 23** Loughton (St John the Baptist, St Nicholas, Trinity Church)

Clergy: Christopher Davies (R), Barbara Read (A), Sam Maginnis (A), Sam Peters (A).

*The Dioceses of Llandaff (Wales), St Edmundsbury & Ipswich (England) and St Helena (Southern Africa)*

**Fri 17** **Antony of Egypt, Hermit, Abbot, 356**  
**Charles Gore, Bishop, Founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932**  
**The Deanery of Epping Forest and Ongar**  
 Area Dean: Lee Batson. Lay Chair: Martyn Lockwood.  
 Assistant Area Deans: Malcolm Macdonald, Peter Smith.  
*The Dioceses of Limerick & Killaloe (Ireland) and Spokane*  
*(The Episcopal Church)*

**Sat 18** **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins**  
**Amy Carmichael, Founder of the Dohnavur Fellowship,**  
**Spiritual Writer, 1951**  
 In this week of prayer for Christian unity – a tradition originally created by Roman Catholics in North America – here is a great quote from Francis, the Bishop of Rome, a fantastic challenge to every Christian:  
 “I dream of a ‘missionary option’, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structure can suitably be channelled for the evangelisation of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.  
*The Dioceses of Lincoln (England), Springfield (The Episcopal Church)*  
*and Goma (Congo)*

**Sun 19** **The Second Sunday of Epiphany**  
 In this week of Christian Unity all Christians must remember the words of Jesus: “A new command I give you: “Love one another.

As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” (John 13:34-35).

PRAY for The United Church of Bangladesh, The Most Revd Samuel Sunil Mankhin - Moderator, Church of Bangladesh & Bishop of Kushtia

**Fri 13** **Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304**  
**Samuel Johnson, Moralist, 1784**  
 Lawford (St Mary) w Little Bentley (St Mary Vn) and The Bromleys (St George, St Mary Vn) Clergy: Simon Heron (AD, PIC), Sally Morris (AC).  
 Lawford School: Miss Abbie Fairburn (HT).  
 St George’s School, Great Bromley: Rebecca Keitch (HT).  
 Mistley w Manningtree (St Mary and St Michael) w Bradfield (St Lawrence) Clergy: Dominic Turner (R), John Brien (AC), Claire Scargill (AC). Reader: Stacie Withers.  
 Mistley Norman School: Fiona Reid (Interim HT).  
*The Dioceses of Sittwe (Myanmar), Ekiti, Ekiti Kwara, Ekiti Oto and Ekiti West (Nigeria)*

**Sat 14** **John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher of the Faith, 1591**  
**Ember Day**  
 John of the Cross once did a sketch of the cross of Christ hanging over the world. It’s a great picture and has become famous in the version painted by Salvador Dali.  
 We are preparing for Christmas, but on this day we remember John of the Cross, his image of the crucified Jesus demands our attention – because it speaks so powerfully of the lordship of Christ over the whole creation, the world that he came to save by being born as one of us.  
*The Dioceses of Sodor & Man (England) and El Camino Real*  
*(The Episcopal Church)*

**Sun 15** **The Third Sunday of Advent**  
 Pray for the Church of England Guild of Vergers and give thanks for the work and devotion of the men and women who carry out this important task.  
 PRAY for the Dioceses of Sokoto (Nigeria) and El Salvador (Central America)

**Mon 16** The Retired Clergy, Readers and Lay Ministers who live and work in the Deanery of Harwich.  
*The Dioceses of South Ankole (Uganda) and Eldoret (Kenya)*

- Tue 17** *O Sapientia*  
*Eglantyne Jebb, Social Reformer, Founder of 'Save the Children', 1928*  
**The Deanery of Saffron Walden**  
 Area Dean: Vacancy. Lay Chair: Graham Cook.  
 Assistant Area Dean: Margaret Davis.  
*The Dioceses of South Dakota (The Episcopal Church) and El-Obeid (Sudan)*
- Wed 18** Icknield Way Villages: Great Chishill (St Swithun), Little Chishill (St Nicholas), Chrishall (Holy Trinity), Elmdon (St Nicholas), Strethall (St Mary Vn), Heydon (Holy Trinity), Duddenhoe End (The Hamlet Church)  
 Clergy: Anand Sodadasi (R). LLM: Shaila Sodadasi.  
 Chrishall School: Tracey Bartley (HT).  
*The Dioceses of South Kerala (South India), Ely (England) and our Link Diocese of Embu (Kenya), The Rt Revd David Ireri, Bishop*
- Thu 19** Saffron Walden and Villages Team Ministry: Saffron Walden, Wendons Ambo (St Mary Vn), Littlebury (Holy Trinity), Ashdon (All Saints), Hadstock (St Botolph), Debden (St Mary Vn), Wimbish w Thunderley (All Saints), Great Chesterford (All Saints), Little Chesterford (St Mary Vn) Clergy: Vacancy (TR), Richard Spencer (TV), Alex Jeewan (TR), Paula Griffiths (AC), Tim Hardingham (AC), Rachel Prior (A), John Saxon (A). LLM: Marisa Balrock, Tracey Nicholls. Reader: Graham Davies.  
 St Mary's School, Saffron Walden: Mr Chris Jarmaine (HT).  
 Debden School: Matthew Hawley (HT).  
 Great Chesterford Primary Academy: Sarah Mitchell (HT).  
*The Dioceses of South Rwenzori (Uganda), Enugu, and Enugu North (Nigeria)*
- Fri 20** Thaxted (St John and St Laurence); The Sampfords (St Mary Virgin, St Michael) and Radwinter (St Mary Virgin) with Hempstead (St Andrew) Clergy: Philip Tarris (R), Christopher Brown (AC), Susannah Lacon (A). Reader: Adrian Wright. LLM: Charles Scott.  
 Radwinter School: Linda Todd (HT).  
*The Dioceses of South West Tanganyika (Tanzania) and Esan (Nigeria)*

- Sun 12** **The Baptism of Christ** (1st Sunday of Epiphany)  
*Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit, and revealed him as your beloved Son; grant that we who are baptised into his name may give up our lives to your service, and be found worthy of our calling.*  
*PRAY for the Anglican Church of Australia, the Most Revd Philip Leslie Freier, Archbishop of Melbourne & Primate of Australia*
- Mon 13** **Hilary, Bishop, Teacher of the Faith, 367**  
**Kentigern (Mungo), Missionary bishop, 603**  
**George Fox, Founder of the Society of Friends (Quakers)**  
 Dagenham (St Peter and St Paul) Clergy: Joel Edwards (V).  
 Reader: Kathy Playle.  
 William Ford Junior School: Richard Hopkins (HT).  
 Dagenham Park CE School: Gez Smith (Interim HT).  
*The Dioceses of Lesotho (Southern Africa) and Southwark (England)*
- Tue 14** Becontree (St George) Clergy: Vacancy (V).  
 Marks Gate (St Mark) Clergy: Vacancy (V).  
*The Dioceses of Lexington (The Episcopal Church) and Southwell & Nottingham (England)*
- Wed 15** Barking (St Margaret) Clergy: Rt Revd Dr Trevor Mwamba (TR, Assistant Bishop); Elwon John (AC).  
 St Margaret's School: David Huntingford (HT).  
 George Carey Primary School: Christopher Harrison (HT).  
*The Dioceses of Liberia (West Africa) and South West Florida (The Episcopal Church)*
- Thu 16** Barking (St Patrick) Clergy: Christopher Bolster (V). LLM: Matthew Harding. Reader: Marco Filipe Lopes.  
 Thames View (Christ Church) Clergy: Unesu Chindabata (V).  
 The retired clergy, Readers and lay ministers who live and work in the Deanery of Barking.  
*The Dioceses of Lichfield (England) and South Western Virginia (The Episcopal Church)*

- Wed 8** Becontree (St Elisabeth)  
Clergy: Steven Hanna (V).  
*The Dioceses of Langtang (Nigeria) and Southern Nyanza (Kenya)*
- Thu 9** Becontree (St Thomas)  
Clergy: Gemma Stock (V).  
Becontree (St Mary, Hartley Brook Church)  
Clergy: Kathryn Miller (V). Reader: Cliff McLeod.  
*The Dioceses of Lebombo (Southern Africa) Southern Ohio (The Episcopal Church) and Southern Philippines (Philippines)*
- Fri 10** **William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645**  
Chadwell Heath (St Chad) Clergy: Martin Court (AD, V);  
Christine Harding (AC), Chika Nduku (A).  
*The Diocese of Leeds (England)*
- Sat 11** **Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915**  
Mary Slessor is not a well-known name among the "saints" but she deserves to be. She grew up in Aberdeen of a devout Presbyterian family and in her early teens supported her entire family.
- Inspired by David Livingstone, the great missionary and explorer, she trained with the Presbyterian missionary society and was sent to Nigeria.
- Mary knew that preaching the Gospel went hand in hand with practical social action. She recognised early on that the people she worked with murdered twins. So very simply and straight forwardly she spent her life rescuing twins.
- The church today says it is committed to reconciliation and justice for the poor. Mary Slessor actually put her life on the line and challenges us to do the same.
- The Diocese of Leicester (England), Southern Virginia (The Episcopal Church) and Gloucester (England)*

- Sat 21** One of today's readings – Zephaniah 3.14-18 – is really worth spending time with in the run up to Christmas. Up to this point the book of the prophet Zephaniah has been unrelenting darkness.

Zephaniah mounts a massive critique of the wickedness of Jerusalem, the corruption of its religious professionals, its prophets, its civic dignitaries. It lambasts them for their failure – and we need to hear all that addressed to us. And then comes this extraordinary song of joy: "Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!" God is sovereign, and for the sake of his name he will bring hope and restoration. He just asks us to join in.

*The Dioceses of Etche and Etsako (Nigeria)*

- Sun 22** **The Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
[Please pray for the members of the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary, and the Company of Servers, and all people who serve Christ at the altar.](#)

*PRAY for Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement: His Holiness Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome; His All Holiness Archbishop Bartholomew of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch; The Revd Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches; Bishop Ivan Abrahams, General Secretary, World Methodist Council; and The Revd Chris Ferguson, General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches.*

- Mon 23** Clavering (St Mary & St Clement) and Langley (St John Evn) w Arkesden (St Mary Vn) and Wicken Bonhunt (St Margaret); Manuden (St Mary Vn) and Berden (St Nicholas). Clergy: Margaret Davies (AAD, V).  
Henham (St Mary Vn) and Elsenham (St Mary Vn) w Ugley (St Peter).  
Clergy: Gary Townsend (V), Gary Tubbs (AC).  
Elsenham School: Linda Reid (HT).  
*The Dioceses of Evo (Nigeria) and Exeter (England)*

**Tue 24 Christmas Eve**

Newport (St Mary Vn) w Widdington (St Mary Vn), Quendon (St Simon & St Jude) w Rickling (All Saints) Clergy: Neil McLeod (V). LLM: Andrea Harrison. Rickling School: Mrs Hannah Wheatcroft (HT).

The Retired Clergy, Readers and Lay Ministers who live and work in the Deanery of Saffron Walden.

*The Dioceses of Ezo (South Sudan) and Faisalabad (Pakistan)*

**Wed 25 Christmas Day - Nativity of our Lord**

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)*

*PRAY for the Peace of Jerusalem and the People of Bethlehem.*

*The Dioceses of Falkland Islands (Falkland Islands, False Bay (Southern Africa) and Federal Ministries (The Episcopal Church)*

**Thu 26 Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr****The Deanery of St Osyth**

Area Dean: Laurie Bond. Lay Chair: Wendy King

Ten Penny Villages: Alresford (St Andrew) and Frating w Thorrington (St Mary), Elmstead (St Anne and St Laurence). Clergy: Andrew Fordyce (R), Pauline Hart (AC). Reader: John Harper.

Brightlingsea (All Saints w St James). Clergy: Caroline Beckett (V). LLM: Catherine Graham.

Clacton (St James). Clergy: Justin Hutcherson (V).

Clacton (St Paul). Clergy: David Lower (PIC).

*The Dioceses of Fianarantsoa (Indian Ocean) and Florida (The Episcopal Church)*

**Sat 4**

New Year is a great invitation. Despite the fact that over the centuries the churches have developed a whole range of elaborate calendars of feasts, season and saints, we have never had our own version of time.

That’s quite unusual. Most world faiths have very definitely had their own version of time. But for Christians even dating things AD didn’t come along till the 9th century and BC much later. Above we’ve always accepted the days and months of the “secular” calendar wherever Christians have lived.

So 1 Jan is New Year here, not Advent Sunday! Just following Christmas that reinforces an important Christmas message: that Christ came INTO the world FOR the world. The world (“cosmos” in the New Testament) is the arena of God’s action and the place where he calls us to be.

*The Dioceses of Lake Malawi (Central Africa), Southern Brazil (Brazil) and Gippsland (Australia)*

**Sun 5**

**The Epiphany (or Second Sunday of Christmas** if the Epiphany is celebrated on Monday 6 January )

*Pray for the Proctors and Laity of our Diocese who are members of the General Synod, that they may be filled with the wisdom and love of the Holy Spirit.*

*PRAY for the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, The Most Revd The Most Revd Philip Richardson, Bishop of Taranaki and Primate; The Most Revd Don Tamihere, Pihopa o Aotearora and Primate; and The Most Revd Fereimi Cama, Bishop of Polynesia and Primate*

**Mon 6**

**Epiphany** (if not celebrated on Sunday 5 January)

Barking (St Erkenwald) Clergy: Young Lee (PIC).

Becontree South TM (St Alban, St Martin, St John the Divine) Clergy: Faye Bailey (TR), Raymond Descombes (AC).

*The Dioceses of Lake Rukwa and Southern Highlands (Tanzania) and Gitega (Burundi)*

**Tue 7**

Becontree St Cedd

Clergy: Vacancy (V), Ruth Dowley (A).

*The Dioceses of Lango (Uganda), Southern Malawi (Central Africa) and Glasgow & Galloway (Scotland)*



# January

## Wed 1 The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

Please pray for Bishop Stephen Cottrell; for the Area Bishops – Peter Hill, John Perumbalath and Roger Morris; the Assistant Bishop and PEV – Norman Banks; the Assistant Bishops - Trevor Mwamba and Roderick Thomas; and for their families.

*The Dioceses of Lagos, Lagos Mainland and Lagos West (Nigeria)*

## Thu 2 Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishops, Teachers of the Faith, 379 and 389

**Seraphim, Monk of Sarov, Spiritual Guide, 1833**

**Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, Bishop in Southern India, Evangelist, 1945**  
**Barking Episcopal Area**

Peter Hill, Area Bishop; Archdeacons Elwin Cockett (West Ham), Vanessa Herrick (Harlow) and Chris Burke (Barking); and all the members of the Barking Area Team.

*The Dioceses of Lahore (Pakistan) South Western Brazil (Brazil) and Southeast Florida (The Episcopal Church)*

## Fri 3 The Deanery of Barking and Dagenham

Area Dean: Martin Court. Lay Chair: Dean Gillespie.

Assistant Area Dean: Vacancy.

Chaplain: Mirabai Swingler (North East London Foundation NHS Trust).

*The Diocese of Lainya (South Sudan) and Southeastern Mexico (Mexico)*

## Fri 27 St John, Apostle and Evangelist

Frinton (St Mary Magdalene). Clergy: Don Smith (R), Laurie Bond (AC).  
LLM: Malcolm Bryden, Maggie Wilson.

Great Clacton (St John the Baptist) Clergy: Mark Mulryne (V).

Readers: Sheila Neale, Robin Whitworth, Ruth Whitworth.

Great Clacton C of E Junior School: Alison Syred-Paul (HT).

Holland-on-Sea (St Bartholomew) Clergy: Vacancy (PIC), David Lower (AC), Susan Wiggins (AC). Ti Alan Chase (Lay Missioner).

Kirby-Le-Soken (St Michael), Great Holland (All Saints) Clergy: Mark Holdaway (R)  
*The Dioceses of Fond du Lac and Fort Worth (The Episcopal Church)*

## Sat 28 The Holy Innocents

There is immense darkness just a few days after the joy and light of Christmas: the slaughter of the Innocents. Two things for us to ponder: that Jesus is not a sticking plaster God who comes to make us feel better, but a God born into the rough stuff and inhumanity of our world, sharing our vulnerability and pain; and that the innocents at the time of Jesus point us to the innocents dying in their tens of thousands today because of our selfishness, greed and lack of vision.

*The Dioceses of Fredericton (Canada) and Freetown (Sierra Leone)*

## Sun 29 The First Sunday of Christmas

[Pray for the staff of the Cathedral, the events to be held there and for all those who will visit during the coming year. Give thanks, too, for all who generously give of their time as volunteers.](#)

*Pray for the Dioceses of Gahini (Rwanda) and Gambia (West Africa)*

## Mon 30 St Osyth (St Peter & St Paul) w Great Bentley (St Mary Vn) Sharon Miles (V).

Reader: Wendy King.

Thorpe-le-Soken (St Michael) Clergy: Vacancy (V).

Thorpe-le-Soken Rolph School: Mr David Ashley (HT).

Walton-le-Soken (All Saints) Clergy: Peter Edwards (R).

*The Dioceses of Gasabo (Rwanda) and Gboko (Nigeria)*

## Tue 31 John Wyclif, Reformer, 1384

Weeley (St Andrew) w Little Clacton (St James) Clergy: Vacancy (PIC).

St Andrew's School: Mrs Diane Fawcett (HT).

The retired clergy, readers and lay ministers who live and work in the Deanery of St Osyth.

*The Dioceses of George (Southern Africa) & Georgia (The Episcopal Church)*

# December



## Have a peaceful & colourful Christmas

### Christmas message from The Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford

I visited New Zealand in the summer – their winter. I was speaking at a conference on mission. My wife, Rebecca, came with me and like a couple of teenagers we hired a camper van and went exploring.

Because it was winter many of the sites we visited were delightfully quiet and peaceful. One of the most unusual places was Wai-O-Tapu Park. It has all of the ingredients you might expect from a beauty spot; unspoilt rocks, ferns, and trees nestled around lakes. What makes this place remarkable are the weird colours. The glooping escape of geothermal gasses through mud and hissing geysers have upset the colours you would expect to see. Soil is white, rocks are orange and water is bright green or red. There is something wonderfully unsettling about seeing what is familiar in a startlingly different way.

The day after the birth of Jesus Christ, the houses of Bethlehem, the harbours of the Mediterranean and trade routes of the Middle East all looked the same. But for Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and Magi everything was startlingly different.

God's familiar creation was now represented in a new and unsettling way. Jesus is baby just like any other, yet his birth, life, death and resurrection reveal Gods new creation. God reframes the entire universe from him, through him and for him.

When we visit him at Christmas we are invited to see ourselves and the whole world in startlingly new and different colours.

I wish you a peaceful and colourful Christmas.

## Live gently and enhance God's creation in 2020

### New Year message from The Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford

When I'm having a bad day – or just as importantly, when I'm feeling a bit too pleased with myself – I say to myself that one day I will be my successors' predecessor. I find this helps me put myself in perspective. It also helps me to pray that the decisions I take are not simply for the good of the diocese while I'm bishop, but will be for the benefit of future generations in East London and Essex. As I pray for our diocese on the eve of 2020, I also wonder what our world will look like when the Bishop of Chelmsford writes their New Year message in 2070 or 2120.

This past year has seen concern for the environment grow. Where once we talked about sustainability, we now question whether the fundamentals of our present existence on this planet are sustainable at all. We now tend to talk about climate emergency not just climate change. As this emergency deepens, it is the poorest and most vulnerable who are suffering most.

In October, I took my staff team to the Franciscan Friary at Hilfield in Dorset to

learn how a community of Christians can intentionally adapt their lives to not only reduce their environmental impact but also positively enhance their corner of creation. Please visit them yourself and learn from them. Their heat comes from biomass. Much of their power from solar. Their food is LOAF (local, organic, animal-friendly and fairly-traded). Their animals naturally tend their wildflower meadows and they generously work with their neighbours to create corridors to support natural habitats.

How would our attitude to God's creation differ if we, like the Franciscans, had to draw our water from the ground directly beneath our feet? Would we discharge the waste and chemicals into the soil and drains that we currently do?

Please join me this year in seeking to live gently in the world and enhance God's creation. You are your successors' predecessor. In 2020 bless the inheritance that you bequeath them.

I wish you a peaceful, gentle and sustainable 2020.