

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

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 Residentiary 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.

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

CONTACT:

To contact us about the distribution of or items for WE PRAY, please email wepray@chelmsford.anglican.org. To have WEPRAY delivered to your inbox, sign up to our e-bulletin at www.chelmsford.anglican.org/media/e-bulletins.



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



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WEPRAY

DEC18 - JAN19

Praying for each other in Essex & East London



Chelmsford Diocese Prayer Diary

#chelmsdioprayers





Follow The Star

How can your church get involved in the 2018 Advent and Christmas campaign?

1. Order the #FollowTheStar A journey throughout the 12 days of Christmas booklets. From later November people you sign up to receive the daily reflections by e-mail and throughout the app for iOS or Android devices.
2. Download or buy posters, invitations, logos and other resources including hanging stars.
3. Update your church page on www.AChurchNearYou.com and add your Christmas services and events.
4. Become a 'star' church by displaying a star prominently. If possible illuminate at night and share it on social media on 21 December to be part of the 'night of the stars'.
5. Help to share the National Church Christmas videos and social media posts.
6. Add your church to our #FollowtheStar interactive map. Sign up at www.chelmsford.anglican.org/followthestar

For more information visit www.churchofengland.org/Christmas

Mon 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)

Tue 29 Charles, King and Martyr, 1649

Loughton (St Michael & All Angels) Clergy: Vacancy (V); Lorraine Smart (AC), Elizabeth Price (A).

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

Wed 30 John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888

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)

Thu 31 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).

Neil Taylor (AC), Jane Quinton (A).

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



What's it like to be a child?

The Listening Project is helping Chelmsford Diocese understand and do more so that so that all children may have a life-enhancing encounter with Jesus Christ.

Children play a vital part in the life of the church. Recognising children as active participants here and now is vital for the church's health and growth. Listening to children's voices helps them know they are valued. And a church that listens to children unlocks its inner three-year-old and looks at the world with renewed playfulness, curiosity, awe, gratitude and hope.

The Listening Project asks: When do you feel close to God? What's the hardest thing about being a child? Who inspires you? What makes you happy? If you could ask God one question, what would it be? What should the church be doing for children and young people?

The Project celebrates good practice from parishes, schools, chaplaincies, fresh expressions and many different disciples of Christ. Everyone has a place at the table in a Listening Church.

Join in the conversation. Email your views to our Children's & Families Adviser, Steve Kersys steve@saltshaker.org.uk or call him on 07541 240607.

DECEMBER

Sat 1 Today is World Aids Day

Advent begins tomorrow with its great themes of hope and expectation. It is a huge shame that over recent centuries Advent has been made to look more and more like Lent when in fact the readings and prayers strike a very different note – not penitence but joyful waiting.

In England traditionally Advent had its own colour – blue, not purple. So grasp these special themes and look forward in hope. As one of today's readings says: "See, I am coming soon!" (Rev. 22:7).

The Dioceses of Kibondo (Tanzania) and Kiteto (Tanzania)

Sun 2 The First Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness.

PRAY for The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain (E-P to the Archbishop of Canterbury), The Rt Revd Carlos Lopez-Lozano

Mon 3 Francis Xavier, Missionary, Apostle of the Indies, 1552 The Deanery of Dunmow & Stansted

Area Dean: Cilla Hawkes. Lay Chair: Belle Beszant.
Chaplain: Robert Burles (London Stansted Airport). Reader: Joanna Pratt.
Pray for the Chaplaincy at London Stansted Airport and all who work there.

The Dioceses of Kibungo (Rwanda) and Kigeme (Rwanda)

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

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 Diocese of Kigezi (Uganda)

Please refer to the Notes and Abbreviations on the back cover.



© Tara Russell

Making Connections in Dunmow and Stansted

In September Connect 120's School and Community Missioner, Tara Russell, and her team of church volunteers celebrated their first year of working together. And what a year it had been!

They had served all 12 schools in their parishes, and had undertaken two RE lessons, two parent coffee mornings, three transition to secondary school sessions, six lunchtime clubs, 24 after-school Bible clubs, 72 assemblies, a reflection space day, and a term of quilting sessions... and been part of activities in the wider community.

The Connect 120 initiative was formed in 2017 by seven churches along the A120 corridor from Stansted to Takeley and Dunmow who got together with Chelmsford Diocese and funded Tara's post.

Tara, an ex-primary school teacher and schools worker for a local charity, is working alongside different community groups in her second year in post.

"One of the groups our team would particularly like to reach is people who are lonely or isolated from mainstream community life," she says.

"We have been talking to groups who are busy doing just that and are looking for ways to widen their reach.

"It is a real privilege to be working in partnership, but Jesus is how we make a difference."

To find out more visit www.connect120.org.uk.

Light service at St John's Church, Stansted Mountfitchet for pupils of St Mary's CE Foundation Primary School

Wed 23 Loughton (St John the Baptist, St Nicholas, Trinity Church)
Clergy: Christopher Davies (R), Barbara Read (A), Sam Peters (A).
The Dioceses of Llandaff (Wales), St Edmundsbury & Ipswich (England), and St Helena (Southern Africa)

Thu 24 **Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher of the Faith, 1622**
Loughton (St Mary Vn) Clergy: Malcolm Macdonald (V), Sam Pollard (AC), Lydia Petitt (A). Readers: Pat Laker, Brenda Miller.
The Dioceses of Lokoja (Nigeria) and St Mark the Evangelist (Southern Africa)

Fri 25 **The Conversion of St Paul**
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 Dioceses of Lomega (South Sudan), Sunyani (West Africa), and Grahamstown (Southern Africa)

Sat 26 **Timothy and Titus, Companions of Paul**
Timothy and Titus are remembered in the calendar today as "companions of Paul". A lovely phrase – the word "companion" literally means someone you break bread with.

Some of Paul's most personal writing is addressed to Timothy. Titus – a gentile Greek – became one of Paul's travelling companions and went on to organise the Christian communities on the island of Crete.

There is great reminder here that Christian life, Christian ministry, Christian service is never a solitary exercise, and if it becomes so for us then we really need to pay attention and do something about it.

The Diocese of London (England)

Sun 27 **The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**
PRAY for The Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil, the Most Revd Naudal Alves Gomes, Primate



Sermons on the go

Each week you can have a short sermon delivered your inbox in the form of a podcast free of charge. You can download and play these audio broadcasts in your own time whenever you have a few minutes for reflection, wherever you are.

Recorded by Chelmsford Diocese the podcasts are popular with listeners who enjoy a good sermon and by ordained and lay ministers who are preparing to give a sermon and are looking for ideas around the lectionary readings.

A third audience is people who have questions about the Christian faith but are more likely to look for a sermon online than wander into a church seeking answers.

Listeners have said how much they enjoy downloading each episode in God's transforming story of love and having the scriptures opened up in a personal way that brings fresh insight. You can sign up to receive the weekly podcast at www.chelmsford.anglican.org/ebulletins. The recordings and transcripts are emailed and tweeted by the diocese, and saved on the diocesan website at www.chelmsford.anglican.org/sermons.

Wed 5 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 Diocese of Kilmore; Elphin & Ardagh (Armagh, Ireland)

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

Great Dunmow (St Mary Vn) w Barnston (St Andrew)
Clergy: Ruth Patten (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 Diocese of Kimberley & Kuruman (Southern Africa)

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

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: Paul Green.

Takeley (Holy Trinity) w Little Canfield (All Saints)
Clergy: Rob Burles (PIC). LLM: Hugh Mascetti.

The Diocese of Kinkiizi (Uganda)

Sat 8 **The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Today is one of those contested days in the calendar. Why on earth should we commemorate the conception of Mary today? Well, because we celebrate her birth 9 months later. Hardly sufficient reason and this ancient feast has got overlaid with so many misunderstandings that maybe it's hard to take it seriously.

But in this Advent season anything that helps us stand with the very human Mary, this young teenager about to have a baby, and – as Luke emphasises so strongly – a virgin (always a bad word in the Old Testament) is a blessing for the journey.

The Diocese of Kinshasa (Congo)



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A light in the darkness

In a darkened church the Christingle expresses the truth that in the darkness of the world there shines a great light.

A candle set into an orange represents Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. A red ribbon tied around the orange symbolises his blood and the love that goes all the way round the world. Fruit and sweets on four cocktail sticks, set in the orange, represent the four seasons and God's goodness in providing the fruits of the earth.

The idea of the Christingle began in the Moravian congregation of Marienborn, Germany, on 20 December 1747.

The Moravian Church took the custom across the world, and people adapted it for their use. 50 years ago it was revived by the Children's Society. Christingle collections raised £1.2 m to support vulnerable children in 2017.

Part of the Moravian Church lives on in a prayer movement called 24-7 Prayer where people encounter Jesus in prayer. Chelmsford is among many places hosting 24-7 prayer rooms and walks. One Chelmsford 24-7 prayer space is in Chelmsford Cathedral.

Find out about Chelmsford 24-7 Prayer www.chelmsford24-7.org, and the Children's Society www.childrenssociety.org.uk.

Sat 19 Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095

We are in the traditional Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year's international theme is inspired by Deuteronomy 16:18-20: "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue".

After many decades of the Week of Prayer often feeling like a burden or something that was for people who like that sort of thing, this is a theme that calls us back to the heart of things: that Christian unity is not about simply or most importantly about covenants and written agreements and having breakfasts in each other's buildings.

It is about common action in service of a world in need. And the scandal of Christian unity is not about our differences in doctrine but about the way it inhibits us preaching and being good news for a broken world.

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

Sun 20 The Third Sunday of Epiphany

Please pray for the Spiritual Direction Co-ordinating Group and all who minister within it.

PRAY for the United Church of Bangladesh, The Most Revd Paul Shishir Sarker, Moderator

Mon 21 Agnes, Child Martyr at Rome, 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. Reader: Robert Taylor.

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

Epping Upland School: Sarah Hurwood (HT).

Coopersale & Theydon Garnon School: Terena Moreton (HT).

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

Tue 22 Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, Martyr, 304

Lambourne (St Mary & All Saints) w Abridge (Holy Trinity) and Stapleford Abbots (St Mary Vn) Clergy: Roger Gayler (PIC).

The Dioceses of Liwolo Area (South Sudan) and St Davids (Wales)



Church school transforms lives of young and old

As well as teaching children fundamentals like reading, writing and maths, a church primary school is giving them opportunities to develop the skills they will need to become empathetic and compassionate citizens of the future.

Ten-year-olds from All Saints' Church of England Primary School in Maldon have been spending time with the residents of Longfield Care Home. The children have grown in confidence and built new relationships ahead of moving to secondary school.

Many of the residents experience loneliness. Having children around is something to remember and look forward to.

The early results have so impressed Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group that it is working with Anglia Ruskin University to evaluate the outcomes and look into wider adoption.

Home Manager, Gina Copsey, explained:

"What has surprised me is that, despite having dementia, many of our residents are remembering the children have been there. They talk about the children and what game they will bring in next."

"The results have been revolutionary for the children as well as the residents," confirmed All Saints' Head Teacher, Philip Brown.

"We've seen some amazing and beautiful relationships unfold."

All Saints' is now raising funds to expand the project.

Sun 9 **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 Falkland Islands (E-P to Canterbury), The Rt Revd Timothy Thornton

Mon 10 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: Christine Tonkins (HT).

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

The Diocese of Kinshasa (Congo)

Tue 11 **The Deanery of Harwich**

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

Gillian Moore (CHP, St Helena Hospice).

The Dioceses of Kisangani (Congo) and Nord Kivu (Congo)

Wed 12 **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), Rosie Tallowin (TV), Sam Winney (AC). LLM: Sioux Thorpe.

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

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

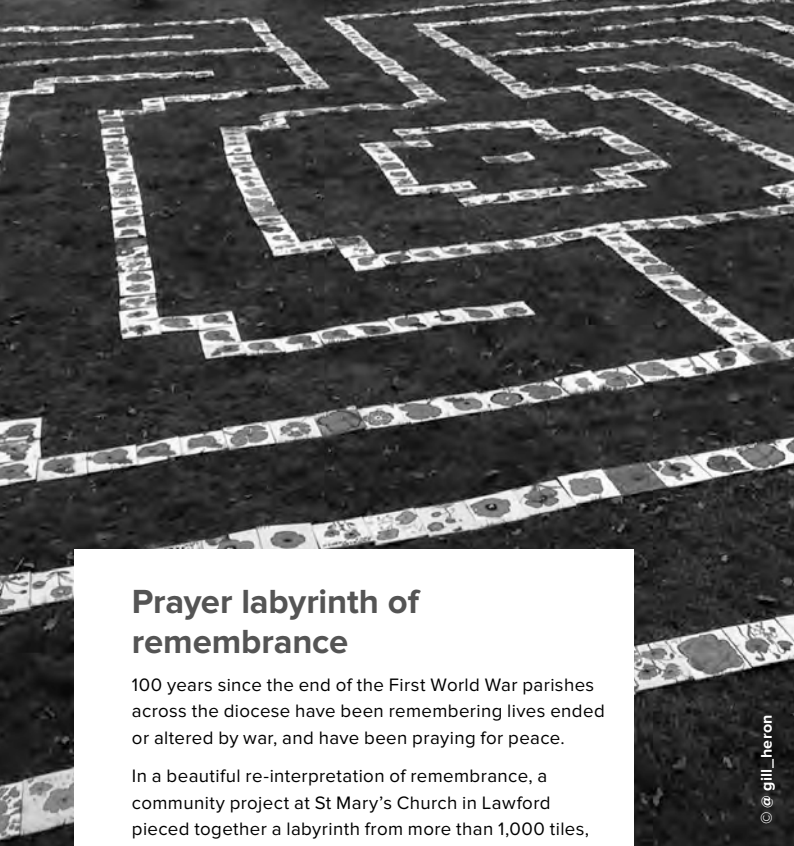
The Diocese of Kita Kanto (Japan)

Thu 13 **Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304 Samuel Johnson, Moralist, 1784**

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: Jane Simmons (HT).

The Diocese of Kitale (Kenya)



Prayer labyrinth of remembrance

100 years since the end of the First World War parishes across the diocese have been remembering lives ended or altered by war, and have been praying for peace.

In a beautiful re-interpretation of remembrance, a community project at St Mary's Church in Lawford pieced together a labyrinth from more than 1,000 tiles, some of which were painted by children from Lawford Church of England Primary School.

Slowly walking the twists and turns of this maze-like path alongside others provided a chance to unwind, prayerfully reflect on relationships and the changes of life, and become aware of a personal pilgrimage centred in the peace and love of God.

© @ gill_heron

Tue 15 Barking (St Patrick) Clergy: Vacancy (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 Liberia (West Africa) and Southwest Florida (The Episcopal Church)

Wed 16 **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 Lichfield (England) and South West Virginia (The Episcopal Church)

Thu 17 **Antony of Egypt, Hermit, Abbot, 356**
Charles Gore, Bishop, Founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932
Buckhurst Hill (St John, St Stephen, St Elisabeth) Clergy: Ian Farley (TR).
Reader: Steve Bacon.
St John's School: Peter Tidmarsh (HT).
The Dioceses of Limerick & Killaloe (Ireland) and Spokane (The Episcopal Church)

Fri 18 **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins**
Amy Carmichael, Founder of the Dohnavur Fellowship, Spiritual Writer, 1951
Chigwell and Chigwell Row TM: Chigwell (St Mary) Chigwell (St Winifred),
Chigwell Row (All Saints) Clergy: Ben King (TR), Paula Preston (TV),
Elise Peterson (A).
Chigwell School: Gary Scott (CHP).
The Dioceses of Lincoln (England), Springfield (The Episcopal Church) and Goma (Congo)



Inspiring Mothers

A group of young mums in Epping were so inspired by the valuable work the Mothers' Union do in Chelmsford Diocese and around the world they asked St John's Church to help re-launch a local branch.

The first thirteen new members were enrolled and branch officials were commissioned at a Family Eucharist service in the church supported by diocesan members of the previous branch and diocesan president Judith Meaden.

The Mothers Union is a 4 million strong Christian movement that advocates for equality, an end to social injustice and conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children.

In parishes across the diocese Mothers' Union members count among their activities baptism and marriage preparation, toddler groups, pre-schools, Sunday schools, and prayer groups. Other places they work include family contact centres and prisons. They are active against gender-based violence.

You do not have to be a woman to belong to the Mothers' Union. You do not have to be married or have children. The only requirements are that you have been baptised as a Christian and support the charity's aims and objectives.

More information about the Chelmsford Diocese Mothers' Union www.muchelmsford.org.uk

Fri 14 **Ember Day**

John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher of the Faith, 1591

Lawford (St Mary) w Little Bentley (St Mary Vn) and The Bromleys (St George, St Mary Vn) Clergy: Simon Heron (AD, PIC), Gillian Moore (AC), Sally Morris (AC).

Lawford School: Donna Wenden (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: Karen Jones (HT).

The Diocese of Kitgum (Uganda)

Sat 15 **Ember Day**

You may notice in your diary or church calendar that today is called an "ember" day. The name has obscure origins, but from very early on they have been days of fasting and prayer for the mission and ministry of the church. That may all sound a bit quaint, but that invitation is as important as urgent as ever.

The church across Europe is today once again a minority for the first time in a thousand years. As we get used to our new status, the heart of the church's life must be given in a new way to a radical openness to God in prayer. So however quaint the word, seek to embrace these ancient spiritual practices which have something important and challenging for our renewal today.

The Diocese of Kitui (Kenya)

Sun 16 **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 Diocese of Kivu (Rwanda), The Rt Revd Augustin Ahimana

Mon 17 **O Sapientia**

Eglantyne Jebb, Social Reformer, Founder of 'Save the Children', 1928

The retired clergy, Readers and lay ministers who live and work in the Deanery of Harwich.

The Diocese of Kobe (Japan)



Worshipping in the great outdoors

A new Forest Church, gathering 30 people aged 3-80 for worship around a fire in a nature reserve near Saffron Walden, has deepened their relationships with each other and with God. Some had not been to church before.

The idea blossomed when a Forest school teacher who came to a church vision day had the idea of giving a congregation the same sense of wonder children feel in a Forest school.

Congregation members threw pine cones into the fire as a symbol of confession, were blindfolded and taken to a tree which they would later have to identify, and sat by themselves for a period of silence and an open prayer of thankfulness. At the end of the service they shared a simple meal of soup and soda bread heated over the fire.

One worshipper said this spirit-filled service was the best she had attended all year.

It promises to be the first of many Forest Church services led by a lay and ordained team from St John's Church, Little Walden.

Fri 11 Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915

Becontree (St George) Clergy: Simon Smallwood (V).

Marks Gate (St Mark) Clergy: Timothy Brampton (PIC).

The Dioceses of Leicester (England), Southern Virginia (The Episcopal Church), and Gloucester (England)

Sat 12 Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167 Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, Scholar, 689

Today's Gospel reading at the Eucharist (John 3.22-30) contains a beautiful scene with John the Baptist. John's disciples tell John about what Jesus is doing, complaining that everyone is going off to see Jesus. John says simply "He must increase, but I must decrease" and likens his role to the best man at a wedding.

In our Christian journeys it is far too easy to let our egos intrude and think that it is all about us – our particular taste in music, our particular likes and dislikes in worship, our special prayers, and so on. But Christian life is not a matter of our tastes and culture, but of our obedience and love. Like John the Baptist, our job is to point others to Jesus.

The Dioceses of Lesotho (Southern Africa) and Southwark (England)

Sun 13 The Baptism of Christ

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.

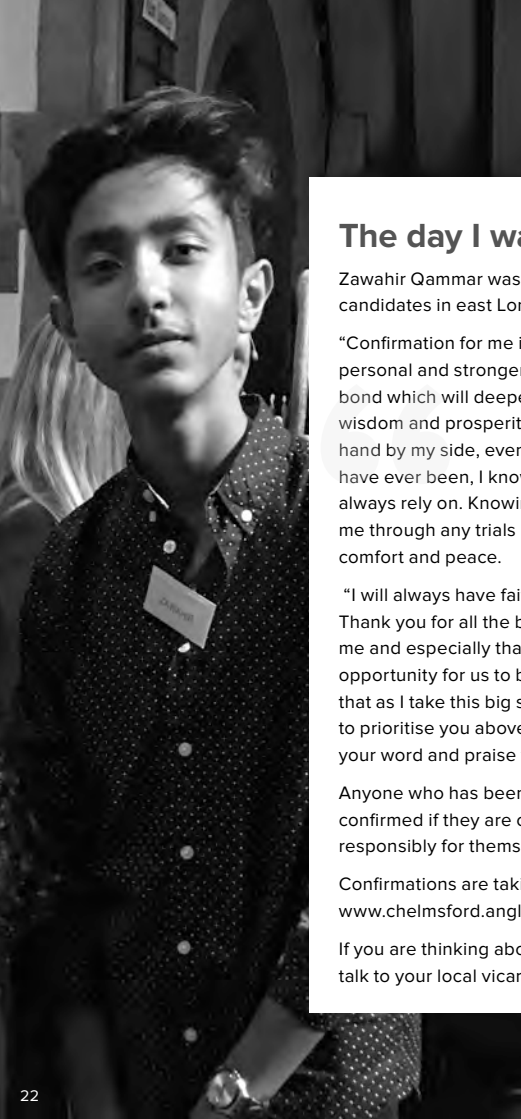
PRAY for the Anglican Church of Australia, The Most Revd Philip Leslie Freier, Archbishop of Melbourne & Primate of Australia

Mon 14 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 Lexington (The Episcopal Church), Southwell & Nottingham (England), and Gogrial (South Sudan)



The day I was confirmed

Zawahir Qammar was one of many confirmation candidates in east London this year:

“Confirmation for me is building a more personal and stronger relationship with God. A bond which will deepen and make me grow in wisdom and prosperity. I have always had God’s hand by my side, even when I am the lowest I have ever been, I know there is someone I can always rely on. Knowing that he is there with me through any trials and tribulations brings me comfort and peace.

“I will always have faith in you, Lord Jesus. Thank you for all the blessings you have given me and especially thank you for this wonderful opportunity for us to be confirmed today. I pray that as I take this big step in life, I will learn how to prioritise you above everything else, spread your word and praise your name always.”

Anyone who has been baptized can be confirmed if they are old enough to answer responsibly for themselves.

Confirmations are taking place throughout 2019
www.chelmsford.anglican.org/confirmation

If you are thinking about being Confirmed do talk to your local vicar.

Tue 18 The Deanery of Saffron Walden

Area Dean: David Tomlinson. Lay Chair: Graham Cook.
Assistant Area Dean: Margaret Davis. Colchester Area Mission & Ministry Adviser: Jenny Tomlinson.

The Diocese of Koforidua (Ghana, West Africa)

Wed 19

Icknield Way Villages: Great Chishill (St Swithun), Little Chishill (St Nicholas), Chrishall (Holy Trinity), Elmdon (St Nicholas), Stretthall (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 Kollam – Kottarakkara (South India) and Krishna-Godavari (South India)

Thu 20

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: David Tomlinson (AD, TR), Richard Spencer (TV), Alex Jeewan (TV), Paula Griffiths (AC), Tim Hardingham (AC), Jenny Tomlinson (AC), Rachel Prior (A), John Saxon (A). LLM: Marisa Baltrock, Tracey Nicholls. Reader: Graham Davies.

St Mary’s School, Saffron Walden: Karen Cayford (HT).

Debden School: Louise Gurney (HT).

Great Chesterford Primary Academy: Sarah Mitchell (HT).

The Diocese of Kondoa (Tanzania)

Fri 21

Thaxed (St John & 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.

Radwinter School: Linda Todd (HT).

The Diocese of Kongor (Upper Nile, South Sudan)

Sat 22

The Gospel reading at the Eucharist today is the song of Mary “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord!” Mary takes the words of the barren Hannah, the mother of Samuel (1 Samuel 2) and adapts them to her own situation. And they are remarkable words which speak of the values of the world being turned upside down by the birth of Jesus. In the early 19th century the British Raj banned the singing of these words in church because they realised just how radical they were. Read them today and work out how we should respond to Mary’s extraordinary manifesto.

The Diocese of Kontagora (Lokoja, Nigeria)



Have a disruptive Christmas!

writes Bishop Stephen

During Advent, stress is etched onto our faces as we scurry around Lakeside, Westfield, Chelmsford or Colchester, queuing for cards and piling up presents, buying things that people don't necessarily want at prices we can't really afford. It makes the carefree summer of 2018 and its scorching heatwave seem like a distant dream.

Yet Christmas is supposed to be disruptive. God needed to cause unprecedented disruption to the world. He had to generously transform his relationship with us by opening himself up to the reality of the dangers faced by a vulnerable baby and then as a provocative young man. This was the only way to change us.

The lives of Mary and Joseph were certainly turned upside down. From that Christmas morning onwards, the lives of billions of others have been shaken and transformed.

This Christmas, I look forward to all the joy and laughter that go with family gatherings and the usual trappings of a traditional Christmas. And I also look forward to finding peace and stillness with God. But I am increasingly aware that I probably need something else as well. I need the disruption of Christmas. I need the surprise. I need the challenge. And so does the world. So I will also be looking for the signs of the glorious disruption that Jesus continues to bring to our world and pray that you encounter that true spirit of Christmas too.

Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford

Sat 5 Tomorrow is the feast of the Epiphany, a very ancient celebration full of great symbolism and mystery – magi at the manger; the baptism of Jesus; Jesus turning water into wine. These three themes weave together at Epiphany and in the weeks that follow, invite us to look outwards. Jesus is a light to the nations, a sign, an invitation to all peoples. He is not the possession of the church or one kept captive in our structures. Rather, Jesus, the light of the world, is the one who says to us, who seek to follow him, “Go out and announce the Kingdom of God.” There’s a new year resolution worth making.

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

Sun 6 The Epiphany

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 Philip Richardson (Senior Bishop of New Zealand Dioceses) and the Most Revd Don Tamihere (Pihopa o Aotearoa)

Mon 7 Becontree St Cedd Clergy: Vacancy (V), Ruth Dowley (A).
Becontree (St Elisabeth) Clergy: Steven Hanna (V).

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

Tue 8 Becontree (St Thomas) Clergy: Gemma Stock (V), Carol Newnham (A).
Becontree (St Mary, Hartley Brook Church) Clergy: Katie Miller (V).
Reader: Cliff McLeod.

The Dioceses of Langtang (Nigeria) and Southern Nyanza (Kenya)

Wed 9 Chadwell Heath (St Chad) Clergy: Martin Court (V); Christine Harding (AC),
Chika Nduku (A).

The Dioceses of Lebombo (Southern Africa), Southern Ohio (The Episcopal Church), and Southern Philippines (Philippines)

Thu 10 William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645

Dagenham (St Peter & St Paul) Clergy: Joel Edwards (PIC). Reader: Kathy Playle.
William Ford Junior School: Richard Hopkins (HT).
Dagenham Park CE School: Simon Weaver (HT).

The Diocese of Leeds (England)



Plough Sunday blessings

On Plough Sunday, held on the first Sunday of Epiphany, farming equipment and soil will be blessed by clergy ready for the year ahead.

This is the day we thank God for the food on our table, and recognise the value of farmers and all who work on the land.

When the land was frozen and work was scarce, farmers would bring the plough out of hibernation, and look forward to the new farming year when they would plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land, and God would bless their labours and bring them to fruition.

Celebrating Plough Sunday brought a sense of God's blessing and the Church's support.

Farming practices and technologies have changed, but thankfulness to God and support for farmers are as vital now as in the past.

Visit our online events calendar for details of Plough Sunday services near you at www.chelmsford.anglican.org/events/listings and submit your own event.

Sun 23 **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 the Diocese of Kubwa (Abuja, Nigeria)

Mon 24 **Christmas Eve**

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 Diocese of Kuching (South East Asia)

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

To us a child is born, to us a son is given, and his name will be called the Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

The Diocese of Kumi (Uganda)

Wed 26 **Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr**

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: Alan Gardiner (HT).

The retired clergy, Readers and lay ministers who live and work in the Deanery of Saffron Walden.

The Diocese of Kushtia (Bangladesh)

Thu 27 **St John, Apostle and Evangelist**

The Deanery of St Osyth

Area Dean: Vacancy. Lay Chair: Wendy King

Alresford (St Andrew) and Frating w Thorrington (St Mary), Elmstead (St Anne and St Laurence). Clergy: Vacancy (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 Kutigi (Lokoja, Nigeria) and Kwara (Kwara, Nigeria)

A warm welcome at Chelmsford Cathedral

Winter is a wonderful time at Chelmsford Cathedral – from concerts to services and everything in between.

Alongside the great occasions and events the Cathedral is open every day from dawn to dusk and everybody is welcome.

To find out more about events and services at Chelmsford Cathedral throughout the year visit www.chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk.



JANUARY

- Tue 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)
- Wed 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 Vacancy (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)
- Thu 3 **The Deanery of Barking and Dagenham****
Area Dean: Martin Court. Lay Chair: Dean Gillespie.
Assistant Area Dean: Vacancy.
Chaplains: Mirabai Swingler (North East London Foundation NHS Trust).
The Dioceses of Lainya (South Sudan) and Southeastern Mexico (Mexico)
- Fri 4 **Barking (St Erkenwald)****
Clergy: Young Lee (PIC).
Becontree South TM (St Alban, St Martin, St John the Divine)
Clergy: Vacancy (TR), Mark Blakely (A), Raymond Descombes (A).
The Dioceses of Lake Malawi (Central Africa), Southern Brazil (Brazil), and Gippsland (Australia)

Step into 2019 with Jesus!

Bishop Stephen's New Year Message

One of the joys of 2018 was returning to Spain to walk part of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. I first completed the northern Way of St James in the autumn of 2016. During the pilgrimage, yellow arrows painted on lampposts guided me through mountainous terrain.

Where I walked, Christmas and the New Year pass with little fanfare. Instead, young people look to the Epiphany on the sixth of January. On the night before, children will leave their shoes on the windowsill stuffed with hay and carrots to feed the horses of Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar as they make their pilgrimage to Bethlehem to worship baby Jesus. The children hope that the Magi will leave them a present in return for horse food. They might also delight in the thought that these exotic travellers will carry them in their hearts as they come into the presence of the saviour of the world.

2019 does not come with yellow arrows painted on lampposts to help guide us through the unforeseen territory ahead. We wouldn't have a fulfilling earthly pilgrimage if we did. Perhaps the children of Spain have the right idea. They bathe in the light and joy of the Epiphany; where simply being in the presence of Jesus provides the hope and trust needed to navigate the year ahead with joy.

With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness, kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!

Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford



A sign on the Camino Way

Fri 28 **The Holy Innocents**

Frinton (St Mary Magdalene). Clergy: Don Smith (R). LLM: Maggie Wilson.
Great Clacton (St John the Baptist) Clergy: Vacancy (V), Mark Mulryne (AC), Phillip Sacre (A). 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 Diocese of Kwoi (Abuja, Nigeria)

Sat 29 **Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1170**

Straight after Christmas we are confronted immediately with the challenge and cost of what it means to follow Jesus. St Stephen's Day on 26th tells us of the first martyr, and today we are confronted with the great English martyred Archbishop, Thomas à Becket, killed in Canterbury Cathedral in response to the wrath of the king. There is a cost to being a follower of Jesus – another reason why Christmas is not for children but the most adult of the Christian feast days.

The Diocese of Kyoto (Japan)

Sun 30 **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 Diocese of Kyushu (Japan)

Mon 31 **John Wyclif, Reformer, 1384**

St Osyth (St Peter & St Paul) w Great Bentley (St Mary Vn)
Sharon Miles (V). Reader: Wendy King.

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

Rolph School: Stephanie Newland/Lorraine Ratcliffe (HT).

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

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

St Andrew's School: Lisa Finch/Lorraine Ratcliffe (HT).

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

The Diocese of Lafia (Abuja, Nigeria)



Aged 11-18? Know someone who is? We want to listen to you!

One way we are aiming to listen is through the new Chelmsford Diocesan Youth Synod.

Meeting with pizza three times a year - twice in each local Bishop's Area and once as a diocese - the Youth Synod will give young people a chance to discuss topics coming up at the Chelmsford Diocesan Synod and have their voice heard.

Chelmsford Diocesan Synod is the Church of England's 'parliament' for Essex and East London.

Youth Adviser Mark Tiddy says: "Chelmsford Diocesan Youth Synod is open to anyone aged 11-18. I am starting to empower a core group to take a lead on Youth Synod, give some the opportunity to speak at Synod, and suggest items for Synod to talk about."



Want to know more?

Email one of our Advisers.

We have an Adviser for each of our three local Bishop's Areas.



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