

**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 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](http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/wepray).

The contribution of Mrs Jenny Robinson to compiling the prayers in WEPRAY 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 22 - FEB 23

## Praying for each other in Essex & East London



Chelmsford Diocese Prayer Diary

#chelmsdioprayers

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## Giving thanks for the life of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Parishes, worshipping communities and Church Leaders across Chelmsford Diocese paid tribute to and gave thanks for the life of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II following her passing on Thursday 8 September.

The Rt Revd Guli Francis- Dehqani, the Bishop of Chelmsford expressed her sadness upon hearing the news.

“At this time of great sadness, we remember with profound gratitude Her Majesty the Queen’s contribution as monarch. Her reign included times of great joy and celebration but also many challenges. It has been a time of unprecedented change for this nation and the world but throughout, Her Majesty’s faith in God and extraordinary sense of duty helped to guide her.

“As we mourn Her Majesty’s death, we give thanks to God for her life, her faith and her exceptional devotion to her duty as monarch.”

Many churches opened books of condolence and provided a space for quiet

reflection, prayer and thanksgiving during the 10-day period of national mourning that followed Her Late Majesty’s death. In her Presidential Address to Diocesan Synod in October, Bishop Guli thanked our parishes for the support they provided to their communities during that time.

“Thank you to all of you who worked hard during the period of national mourning to ensure that our churches were open, offering the opportunity for individuals to express their grief through private prayer and for communities to gather for memorial services. The public response demonstrated how important the role of the church is in times of personal and public grief. I’m grateful for the part that each of you played.

“And, of course, we now have a new King, Charles III. So, a time of change and transition for him, for the Royal Family and for the country, all of which need our prayers.”

Picture: A photograph of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip was projected on to St John’s Finchingfield in tribute to her Late Majesty.



Twenty-four new priests were ordained at five services across our diocese on Saturday 1 October.

Our new priests are pictured here at their pre-ordination retreat at the Diocesan House of Retreat, Pleshey also with all our Bishops and Diocesan Director of Ordinands.

Unfortunately, two of those who were due to be ordained on 1 October had Covid-19, so they were ordained later that month.

Read more about our new priests at [chelmsford.anglican.org/new-priests](https://chelmsford.anglican.org/new-priests).

If you feel that God is calling you to a role in the Church, there are many different vocations. A good first step is to talk to your local clergy.

You can find out more about Ministry in the Church of England at [chelmsford.anglican.org/vocations](https://chelmsford.anglican.org/vocations).

**Please pray for all our new deacons and priests as they embark on this new stage in their ministry.**



## Michaelmas ordinations

### Congratulations to our new deacons and priests who were ordained this autumn.

On Sunday 11 September, twenty-six new deacons were ordained at Chelmsford Cathedral. Following the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the ordination services were different from previous years.

There was a period of silence observed and there were prayers said to give thanks for Queen Elizabeth's life and service, particularly as Supreme Governor of the Church of England that our new deacons will serve.

The new deacons are pictured here whilst on pre-ordination retreat at the Diocesan House of Retreat, Pleshey with our Bishops, our Diocesan Director of Ordinands, the Revd Tim Goodbody and The Right Revd Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy the Bishop of Willesden who led their retreat.

Read more about our new deacons at [chelmsford.anglican.org/ordinations](https://chelmsford.anglican.org/ordinations).

## December

"We pray in order to enter into, maintain and deepen our relationship with God, whom to know is life eternal."

Stephen Winward

### Thu 1 World Aids Day

**Calendar of Saints: Charles de Foucauld, Hermit, 1916**

**Pray for:** The Deanery of Dunmow & Stansted  
Area Dean: Vacancy. Lay Chair: Allison Ward.

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Nyang (The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan)*

### Fri 2 **Pray for:** Felsted (Holy Cross) and Little Dunmow (St Mary the Virgin)

Clergy: Colin Taylor (V), James Wells (A). Reader: Joanna Pratt.

Felsted School: Nigel Little (CHP)

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Southern Nyanza (The Anglican Church of Kenya)*

### Sat 3 **Calendar of Saints: Francis Xavier, Missionary, Apostle of the Indies, 1552**

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Nzara (The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan)*

### Sun 4 **THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Pray for all who work in radio or television and the work of all local and regional media outlets within our Diocese.**

**Pray for:** *The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East*

### Mon 5 **Pray for:** Broxsted w Chickney (St Mary Vn) and Tilty (St Mary Vn) and Great Easton

(St John & St Giles) and Little Easton

Clergy: Susan Hurley (PIC), Josephine Wood (A).

Great Easton School: Claire Jackman (HT).

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of el-Obeid (The Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan)*

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



Follow The Star  
THE GREAT  
INVITATION

Resources for individuals and churches from the Church of England

Following a series of difficult Christmases, churches across the Church of England will be hoping that 2022 offers a chance to welcome people back to services and events that haven't been possible in recent years.

To support this the Church of England has developed a range of resources to help churches invite their community back to church this Christmas.

The theme of this year's resources is returning to the Follow The Star branding used in two previous years to encourage people to attend their local church at Christmas and to take the next step on their journey of faith. There is also a focus on The Great Invitation - encouraging everyone to share the joy of gathering together to celebrate the birth of Jesus with their family, friends and neighbours - especially after two years where this has been impossible for many.

Follow The Star: The Great Invitation will consist of 12 reflections from a range of authors who will share personal stories

exploring themes of invitation. These are available on social media, via the church of England app, smart speakers and in booklet form.

A series of national online services for the Sundays of Advent and Christmas will be broadcast on YouTube and Facebook.

One of the new resources for 2022 is Christmas in a Box - a small number of model services that churches can take and make their own.

Your church can join in with Follow The Star: The Great Invitation by updating your A Church Near You page with details of your events and services, accessing and using the printed and digital resources available and sharing the Follow The Star: The Great Invitation content on your social media channels.

Visit our Advent and Christmas webpage [www.chelmsford.anglican.org/advent-and-christmas-2022](http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/advent-and-christmas-2022)

**Sun 26 THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

Fairtrade Fortnight starts tomorrow until 6 March. Pray for fairness and justice in our trading system globally, for fair prices for producers and a wide perspective for consumers in the impact of their choices.

Give thanks for the Fairtrade Movement, and local initiatives in our diocese which highlight fair-trade products and raise debate about economic justice for all.

*Pray for: The Scottish Episcopal Church*

**Mon 27 Fairtrade Fortnight begins**

**Pray for:** The Deanery of Havering  
Area Dean: Ken Wylie. Lay Chair: Johanna Hardy.  
Assistant Area Dean: Amanda Keighley.  
Chaplain: Vacancy (Romford Town Centre).

*Pray for: The Diocese of Qu'Appelle (The Anglican Church of Canada)*

**Tue 28 Calendar of Saints: George Herbert, Priest, Poet, 1633**

**Pray for:** Cranham (All Saints)  
Clergy: Marion Williams (R). Penny Brooks (A).

*Pray for: The Diocese of Quebec (The Anglican Church of Canada)*

This Advent and Christmas, please pray that many people will visit their local churches and share the joy of gathering together to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Drink deeply  
Live abundantly

Follow the Diocesan House of Retreat on social media or visit our new website to get the latest information about upcoming retreats and events.

 @RetreatHousePleshey

 @RetreatPleshey

[www.retreathousepleshey.com](http://www.retreathousepleshey.com)



**Tue 6 Calendar of Saints: Nicolas, Bishop of Myra, c.326**

**Pray for:** Great Dunmow (St Mary Vn) w Barnston (St Andrew)

Clergy: Thomas Warmington (PIC), Elsie Bouffler (A).

Dunmow St Mary's CE Primary School: Claire Griffiths (HT).

Benefice of the Rodings, Easters & Great Canfield: The South Rodings - Abbess Roding (St Edmund), Beauchamp Roding (St Botolph), White Roding (St Martin), Leaden Roding (St Michael); Great Canfield (St Mary Vn), High Roding (All Saints), Aythorpe Roding (St Mary Vn), High Easter (St Mary Vn), Good Easter (St Andrew) and Margaret Roding (St Margaret of Antioch)  
Clergy: Robert Stone (PIC), Tim Goodbody (AC), Gary Fleming (A).

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Offa (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*

**Wed 7 Ember Day**

**Calendar of Saints: Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher of the Faith, 397**

**Pray for:** Stebbing (St Mary Vn) & Lindsell (St Mary Vn) w Great Saling (St James) and Little (Bardfield) Saling (St Peter & St Paul)

Clergy: Susan Hurley (PIC), Ian Elliott (AC), Josephine Wood (A). Licensed Lay Ministers: Catherine Elliott, Kate Green, Paul Green, Nigel Warren.

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Ogbaru (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*

**Thu 8 Calendar of Saints: Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Pray for:** Stansted Mountfitchet (St John) w Birchanger (St Mary Virgin) & Farnham (St Mary Virgin), Takeley (Holy Trinity) w Little Canfield (All Saints)

Clergy: Colin Fairweather (PIC), Helen Flack (AC).

Licensed Lay Minister: Hugh Mascetti.

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

Birchanger CE Primary School: Ms Claire Berry (HT)

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

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Ogbia (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*



## Celebrate Christmas at Chelmsford Cathedral

It has been an extraordinary autumn at Chelmsford Cathedral as we have welcomed tens of thousands of people from across the region to experience the art installation Gaia. As we move towards winter, December is another wonderful invitation to come and share in the beauty of this place and to join in the festivities of the season.

### Fri 9 & 16 December

#### Carols for Everyone at midday

45-minute lunchtime service with all your favourite Christmas readings and carols.

### Sun 11 December

#### A Ceremony of Carols at 6pm

The Cathedral Choir perform Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols, a well-loved choral favourite for the Christmas season.

### Sat 17 December

#### Christingle Service at 3pm

During this service every child receives the gift of a Christingle, a little lighted candle in an orange, to help us tell the Christian story and bring light to the darkness.

### Wed 21, Thurs 22 & Fri 23 December

#### Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols at 6.30pm

A beautiful traditional service of music led by our choir with readings and congregational carols.

### Thurs 22 & Fri 23 December

#### Carols for Kids at 11.30am

Come along for a fun and relaxed 30 minute service of Christmas singing and stories, ideal for little ones.

### Sat 24 December

#### Crib Service at 4pm

Take part in this interactive service where children are invited to dress up as characters from the nativity and help retell the Christmas story.

### Midnight Eucharist at 11.30pm

A traditional service in which we gather to celebrate the first Eucharist of Christmas with music from the Cathedral Choir.

### Sun 25 December

**9am** - Family service for Christmas morning.

**10.30am** - Christmas Day Eucharist led by the Bishop of Chelmsford.

### Sun 19 THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

Please pray for a deepening of our faith during the upcoming season of Lent and for those who will be participating in Lent courses.

*Pray for: Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda*

### Mon 20 Pray for: Hatfield Heath (Holy Trinity) w Sheering (St Mary Vn)

Clergy: Dawn Jewson (PIC), Rebecca Challis (A).

Sheering CE Primary School: Lorna Brittain (HT).

*Pray for: The Diocese of Popondota (The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea)*

### Tue 21 Pray for: Staple Tye (St James) Clergy: Christian Okeke (PIC).

St James' CE Primary School: Casey Cox (HoS) and Gina Bailey (Exec. HT).

*Pray for: The Diocese of Portsmouth (The Church of England)*

### Wed 22 ASH WEDNESDAY

*Pray for: Nazeing (All Saints w St Giles) Clergy: Vacancy (PIC).*

Roydon (St Peter) Clergy: Richard Attew (PIC).

*Pray for: The Diocese of Pretoria (The Anglican Church of Southern Africa)*

### Thu 23 Calendar of Saints: Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr, c.155

*Pray for: Church Langley Clergy: Vacancy (V).*

Licensed Lay Minister: Lis Scott.

*Pray for: The Diocese of Puerto Rico (The Episcopal Church)*

### Fri 24 Pray for: The retired Clergy, Readers and Lay Ministers who live

and work in the Deanery of Harlow.

*Pray for: The Diocese of Pune (The [United] Church of North India)*

### Sat 25 Pray for: The Missionary Diocese of Pyay

*(The Church of the Province of Myanmar)*

Please pray for the staff at Chelmsford Cathedral as they plan for events and services over Advent and Christmas. Also pray for all those who will visit and worship there.



## Bishop Guli opens new school building

In the autumn, The Right Reverend Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford, officially opened a new building at Mountnessing C of E Primary School.

After a year of work, the new building was completed and it has given the school three new classrooms, new offices, a staff room, a library, additional toilets and a food technology room. The expansion has also enabled the school to increase their yearly intake of pupils.

Holly Obank, Head teacher Mountnessing CE Primary School explains more about the project and some unexpected delays caused by the local wildlife!

“The new school building is clad in cedar to match our Forest School ethos and sits well within our extensive grounds. The building project had been delayed by several years due to a large, protected badger sett within our school grounds. With help from

the ecological team the badger sett was temporarily closed, but now building work has finished the badgers can return.”

Holly continues: “We are very lucky to have such a fantastic new building for our children to learn in and we were very honoured to welcome Bishop Guli to officially open the new building and bless our school. The original Victorian part of our school originates from 1872 and now 150 years later the school is sustainable for the future and growing!”



Photos @MountnessingSch on Twitter

Please pray for all the staff and pupils at Mountnessing C of E Primary School.

### Fri 9 Ember Day

**Pray for:** The Deanery of Harwich

Area Dean: Vacancy. Lay Chair: John Baker.

Terry Walker (CHP, St Helena Hospice).

**Pray for:** The Diocese of Ogbomoso (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])

### Sat 10 Ember Day

**Pray for:** The Diocese of Ogoni (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])

### Sun 11 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 Anglican Church of Kenya

### Mon 12 **Pray for:** Dedham (St Mary Virgin) and Ardleigh (St Mary the Virgin)

Clergy: Vacancy (Rural Missioner), Phillip Young (Rural Missioner).

Dedham School: David Larner (HT).

St Mary's School, Ardleigh: Nathan Kempster (HT).

**Pray for:** The Missionary Diocese of Ogori-Magongo (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])

### Tue 13 **Calendar of Saints: Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304**

**Samuel Johnson, Moralist, 1784**

**Pray for:** 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), Kirsty Emerson (TV), Claire Scargill (AC), Sam Winney (AC).

Licensed Lay Ministers: John Shaw, John Wallace.

All Saints School, Dovercourt: Samantha Moseley (HT).

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

**Pray for:** The Diocese of Ohaji/Egbema (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])



## Stansted Airport Sings Christmas

Revd Peter Allen, Chaplain at Stansted Airport tells us about his ministry, the work of the chaplaincy team at the airport and their annual carol service which has become a real highlight of the festive calendar.

"My role as coordinating chaplain at Stansted airport sees me leading a team of six chaplains, including myself, as we seek to offer pastoral support and care to the staff and passengers at the airport.

"Currently there are approximately 10,000 staff employed within the airport perimeter and approximately 40,000 passengers passing through the airport on any given day. As you can imagine a team of six chaplains can only be effective to a small proportion of these people but nevertheless, we do seek to be known by and available to as many as is possible as a team.

"One of the events that offers us the opportunity to be seen as a presence in the airport is the annual 'Stansted Airport Sings Christmas' which is much appreciated by staff and passengers alike.

"The longest serving member of the chaplaincy team, Major Sidney Pinches of the Salvation Army has overseen this event in previous years bringing in a Salvation Army band to accompany the carols and to play before and after the carol service.

"One year he invited Jonathan Andrew Hume who plays 'Simba' in The Lion King West End production who sang 'O Holy Night' and a secular Christmas song, which was wonderful.

"We always include the reading of the Christmas story which is read by either the Managing Director of the airport or one of their co-Directors.

"We sing well known carols, and the event is led by all the chaplains. It has become something of a tradition in the airport.

"This year it's taking place on Wednesday 14 December at midday and everyone is very welcome to come along and be part of a marvellous festive sing-along!"

Picture: West End actor, Andrew Hume sings at 'Stansted Airport Sings Christmas'.

- Tue 14** **Calendar of Saints: Cyril and Methodius, Missionaries to the Slavs, 869 and 885**  
**Valentine, Martyr at Rome, c.269**  
**Pray for:** Great Parndon (St Mary) Clergy: Richard Attew (PIC), Paul Bartlett (A).  
**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Northern Philippines (Philippines)*
- Wed 15** **Calendar of Saints: Sigfrid, Bishop, Apostle of Sweden, 1045**  
**Thomas Bray, Priest, Founder of SPCK and SPG, 1730**  
**Pray for:** Tye Green (St Stephen) w Netteswell (St Andrew)  
 Clergy: Darren McIndoe (PIC), Christian Okeke (AC), Sophie Weller (A).  
 Licensed Lay Minister: Karen Swanton.  
 William Martin CE Infant & Nursery School: Claire Kearney (HoS) and Gina Bailey (Exec. HT).  
 William Martin CE Junior School: Claire Kearney (HoS) and Gina Bailey (Exec. HT).  
**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Southern Philippines (Philippines)*
- Thu 16** Pray for: Latton (St Mary) Clergy: Lynn Hurry (V), Malcolm Green (AC).  
 Licensed Lay Minister: Piers Northam.  
**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Phulbani (The [United] Church of North India)*
- Fri 17** **Calendar of Saints: Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, Martyr, 1977**  
**Pray for:** Hatfield Broad Oak (St Mary Vn) w Bush End (St John the Evangelist) Clergy: Dawn Jewson (PIC), Rebecca Challis (A).  
 St Mary's CE Primary School: Ruth Baugh (Executive HT).  
**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Pittsburgh (The Episcopal Church)*
- Sat 18** **Pray for:** *The Diocese of Polynesia (The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia)*

Please pray for the chaplaincy team at Stansted Airport as well as those who work there and those passing through on their travels.



## Walking for windows' helps raise funds to repair stained-glass windows

St Andrew's Church in Chelmsford is blessed to have beautiful large stained-glass windows that allows the church to be filled with wonderful light.

However, these windows are in need of repair, so earlier this year the Revd Simon Pearce, Priest in charge at St Andrew's, decided to raise funds by walking 42 miles along the St Peter's Way - from the oldest wooden church in the world, St Andrew's Church in Chipping Ongar to the Chapel of St Peter-on-the-wall in Bradwell - all in one day!

Simon was joined on the walk by members of his congregation and the Revd Julia Lacey, Assistant Curate at Chelmsford Cathedral. Talking about the 'Walking for windows' fundraising campaign Simon said: "After 17 and a half hours of walking, over 100,000 steps and burning 10,000 calories I completed the 42-mile walk!

I was grateful to have company on the journey and together we raised a further £7,000. In total, we have currently raised just over £23,000 of the £67,000 needed for the window repair and restoration fund."

The church has begun applying for grants and will continue with other fundraising activities to raise the remaining funds needed for the project.

Simon continues: "Our next big fund-raising activity will start in the new year with our 'sponsor a window pane' appeal.

"Everyone that sponsors a window pane will have their name written in a 'Record of Sponsors' book' that will remain in the church for many years to come. We hope that this will draw support from the wider community as well as our church community and that the new windows will be enjoyed by everyone!"

Please pray for the parish of St Andrew's, Chelmsford as they continue with their fundraising efforts for the repair and restoration of their stained-glass windows.

- Wed 14** **Calendar of Saints: John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher of the Faith, 1591**  
**Pray for:** Great Oakley (All Saints) w Wix (St Mary) & Wrabness (All Saints), Tendring (St Edmund), and Beaumont-cum-Moze (St Leonard)  
 Clergy: Vacancy (V), Laura Garnham (AC), Phillip Young (Rural Missioner).  
 All Saints School, Great Oakley: Aaron Battersby (HT).  
 Lawford (St Mary) w Little Bentley (St Mary Vn) and The Bromleys (St George, St Mary Virgin) Clergy: Vacancy (V), Phillip Young (Rural Missioner), Sally Morris (AC), Dominic Turner (AC), Nicky Young (A).  
 Lawford School: Abbie Fairbairn (HT).  
 St George's School, Great Bromley: Rebecca Keitch (HT).  
**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Ohio (The Episcopal Church)*
- Thu 15** **Pray for:** Mistley w Manningtree (St Mary and St Michael) w Bradfield (St Lawrence) Clergy: Dominic Turner (R), John Brien (AC), Nicky Young (A).  
 Mistley Norman School: Mark Carter-Tufnell (HT).  
 The Retired Clergy, Readers and Lay Ministers who live and work in the Deanery of Harwich.  
**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Southern Ohio (The Episcopal Church)*
- Fri 16** **Pray for: The Deanery of Saffron Walden**  
 Area Dean: Jeremy Trew. Lay Chair: Graham Cook.  
**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Oji River (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*
- Sat 17** **Calendar of Saints: O Sapientia**  
 Eglantyne Jebb, Social Reformer, Founder of 'Save the Children', 1928  
**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Okene (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*
- Sun 18** **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 Anglican Church of Korea*



## A moving farewell service for Archdeacon Elizabeth

People from across Chelmsford Diocese gathered at Chelmsford Cathedral on Sunday 2 October to say farewell to The Venerable Elizabeth Snowden who recently retired as Archdeacon of Chelmsford.

During the service, the congregation heard good news stories from groups and individuals who have worked closely with Archdeacon Elizabeth during her time in Chelmsford Diocese.

Representatives from the Chelmsford Diocese Deaf Church thanked her for the support she has given to them and their ministry and the Revd James Gilder, the former Diocesan Environment Officer, paid tribute to Elizabeth for her work as Chair of the Environment Group and Net Carbon Zero Board.

The Right Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford, The Right Revd Dr John Perumbalath, Bishop of Bradwell and the Area Dean of Chelmsford, the

Revd Canon Tim Ball, also paid tribute and presented Elizabeth with farewell gifts.

On the announcement of her retirement in July, Archdeacon Elizabeth said: "I felt very privileged to sense a call and be appointed to serve in this diocese as an archdeacon. Despite the many challenges, I have valued the support, encouragement and friendship I have received.

"The last couple of years however, have been challenging for my family and I need to step back from my role in order to give them more support.

"Back in 2016 in my early days in the Diocese this verse was given to me: 'The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.' This reflects my experience, for which I give thanks."

Read about Archdeacon Elizabeth's farewell service in full at [chelmsford.anglican.org/news](https://chelmsford.anglican.org/news).

Please pray for Archdeacon Elizabeth as she begins her retirement.

### Tue 7 **Pray for: The Deanery of Harlow**

Area Dean: Martin Harris. Lay Chair: Jane Potter. Chaplains: Christian Okeke and Gillian Newman (Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust).

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Perth (The Anglican Church of Australia)*

### Wed 8 **Pray for:** Great Hallingbury (St Giles) & Little Hallingbury (St Mary Vn)

Clergy: Vacancy (PIC), Dawn Jewson (AC), Rebecca Challis (A).  
Licensed Lay Minister: Caroline Harding.

Little Hallingbury CE Primary School: Ruth Baugh (Executive HT).

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Peru (The Anglican Church of South America)*

### Thu 9 **Pray for:** Harlow (St Mary & St Hugh w St John the Baptist)

Clergy: Sarah Swift (V).

Harlow Churchgate CE Primary School: Jonathan Tye (HT).

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Peshawar (The [United] Church of Pakistan)*

### Fri 10 **Calendar of Saints: Scholastica, sister of Benedict, Abbess of Plombariola, c.543**

**Pray for:** Harlow (St Mary Magdalene) Clergy: Vacancy (V), Garry Neave (AC).

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Peterborough (The Church of England)*

### Sat 11 **Pray for:** *The Diocese of Central Philippines (Philippines)*

### Sun 12 **SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**

**Racial Justice Sunday: Today is an opportunity to reflect on the importance of racial justice, to give thanks for human diversity, and pray for an end to misunderstanding, racism and injustice.**

**Pray for:** *The Episcopal Church in the Philippines*

### Mon 13 **Pray for:** Harlow Town Centre (St Paul w St Mary), Little Parndon TM

Clergy: Martin Harris (AD, TR), Jokey Poynz (TV), Ann Keeble (A).  
Licensed Lay Minister: Peter Smith.

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of North Central Philippines (Philippines)*

## The Very Revd Nicholas Henshall announces his departure as Dean of Chelmsford

After nearly nine years as Dean of Chelmsford, the Very Revd Nicholas Henshall, has announced that he is moving to be Parish Priest of St Thomas the Apostle, New Groombridge in the Diocese of Chichester.

Commenting on his announcement, Nicholas said: "It has been an extraordinary privilege to serve as Dean of Chelmsford over the last nine years. The task I was given in 2014 was to stretch a parish church to become a Cathedral for the whole Diocese. It was clear from the beginning that this was a process of culture change that would take decades rather than years, and my role was to start that journey.

"It has been great to see the Cathedral rise to the challenge, and personally I've loved leading worship and preaching in churches and communities across the Diocese and across church traditions. Playing a part in building links and forming relationships in the Diocese, and just as significantly in the city and the region, has been - and continues to be - at the heart of the work of the Cathedral."

The Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani has paid tribute



to Nicholas following the announcement: "I'm hugely grateful to Nicholas for his contribution to the life of Chelmsford Cathedral and our Diocese over the past nine years. His achievements have been considerable.

"Chelmsford Cathedral has become a more accessible and welcoming place and he has shown great commitment towards making it a cathedral for the whole diocese. This was particularly important during the height of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

"I also want to thank him for the important work he has done in wider civic and community life as Dean of the Cathedral. I wish him and Christine every blessing in this next phase of their ministry."

There will be a service at Chelmsford Cathedral at 3.30pm on 5 February, to give thanks for Nicholas' ministry and to say farewell. Read the full announcement at [chelmsford.anglican.org/news](https://chelmsford.anglican.org/news).

## December

**Mon 19** **Pray for:** 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: Vacancy (R).

Chrishall School: Tracey Bratley (Executive HT).

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Oke-Ogun (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*

**Tue 20** **Pray for:** 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) and Little Chesterford (St Mary Vn)  
Clergy: Jeremy Trew (AD, TR), Alex Jeewan (TV), John Saxon (TV), Ella Harris (A). Licensed Lay Ministers: Marisa Baltrock, Tracey Nicholls.

St Mary's School, Saffron Walden: Mr Chris Jarman (HT).

Debden School: Matthew Hawley (HT).

Great Chesterford Primary Academy: Sarah Mitchell (HT).

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Oke-Osun (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*

**Wed 21** **Pray for:** Thaxted (St John and St Laurence); The Sampfords (St Mary Virgin, St Michael) and Radwinter (St Mary Virgin) with Hempstead (St Andrew  
Clergy: Vacancy (R), Susannah Lacon (AC).

Licensed Lay Minister: Adrian Wright.

Radwinter School: Emily Bartram (HT).

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Okigwe (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*

**Thu 22** **Pray for:** Clavering (St Mary & St Clement) and Langley (St John Evangelist) w Arkesden (St Mary Virgin) and Wicken Bonhunt (St Margaret); Manuden (St Mary Virgin) and Berden (St Nicholas). Clergy: Margaret Davis (V).

Henham (St Mary Virgin) and Elsenham (St Mary Virgin) w Ugley (St Peter). Clergy: Louis Wilson (V).

Elsenham School: Linda Todd (HT).

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Okigwe North (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*

Please pray for Nicholas and his family as he prepares for this new chapter in his ministry.



## A message from Bishop Guli

The Right Reverend Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford, has written a message for the Christmas season.

One of my favourite books of all time is by an American author, Henry van Dyke, who was writing around the turn of the 19th to the 20th centuries. It's a short book, called *The Other Wise Man*, which you could easily read in one sitting.

It tells the tale of a fourth and unknown wise man who sets out along with his three colleagues, but they get separated and he gets lost along the way to Bethlehem. The fourth wise man spends a lifetime searching for the Christ child, arriving eventually in Jerusalem 33 years later where he finally finds Jesus hanging on the cross. It's a profound and poignant tale about the significance of faith as a journey and it's a vivid reminder that the stories we hear around Christmas and Epiphany are inextricably bound up with the stories of Lent (where this edition of the prayer calendar takes us to) and beyond, to Holy Week and Easter.

As we begin another year with all the uncertainty that continues raging around us, and with continued worries about the cost of living and the changing nature of the church, it's perhaps worth remembering that the same Christ child who drew kings and magi to his crib, is the one who invites us to follow him still today.

We have no idea where the journey may take us, possibly to the foot of the cross. But regardless of the destination, the way we travel shapes and forms us. Along the way, we catch glimpses of God's presence in smaller and larger ways, and we are held by the everlasting arms of the one who goes before us.

May God bless you during 2023 and may you know the love of God which surrounds and strengthens us each step of the way.

+ Guli

## February

- Wed 1** **Calendar of Saints: Brigid, Abbess of Kildare, c.525**  
**Pray for:** High Laver (All Saints) w Magdalen Laver (St Mary Magdalene) w Little Laver (St Mary Vn) and Matching (St Mary Vn) w Matching Green (St Edmund) Clergy: Julia Baldwin (PIC).  
 Matching Green CE Primary School: Amy Wareham (HT).  
**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Pelotas (Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil)*
- Thu 2** **PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE (CANDLEMAS)**  
**Pray for:** High Ongar (St Mary) w Norton Mandeville (All Saints) Clergy: Stewart Gibbs (PIC).  
**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Pennsylvania (The Episcopal Church)*
- Fri 3** **Calendar of Saints: Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg, Missionary in Denmark & Sweden, 865**  
**Pray for:** North Weald (St Andrew) Clergy: Lee Batson (PIC).  
 St Andrew's CE Primary School: Katie Henson (HT).  
**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania (The Episcopal Church)*
- Sat 4** **Calendar of Saints: Gilbert of Sempringham, Founder of the Gilbertine Order, 1189**  
**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania (The Episcopal Church)*
- Sun 5** **THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**  
 Thank God for our Diocesan links with other parts of the world. Pray for understanding and love between all people of faith.  
**Pray for:** *The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea*
- Mon 6** **Calendar of Saints: Martyrs of Japan, 1597**  
**Pray for:** The retired Clergy, Readers, and Lay Ministers who live and work in the Deanery of Epping Forest and Ongar.  
**Pray for:** *The Territory of the People (The Anglican Church of Canada)*



## Thanking those involved in making our churches safe

In September, Bishop Guli led a service at Chelmsford Cathedral of thanksgiving, prayer and commitment for all those involved in the work of safeguarding in Chelmsford Diocese.

The service was attended by Parish Safeguarding Officers, those involved in safeguarding across our diocese and those who wanted to show their support and give thanks for this important area of our shared life.

Susan Crane, Churchwarden and safeguarding lead for the parish of St Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh in the Harwich deanery, attended the service and commented: "How encouraging to have the commitment to safeguarding and the hard work that it involves by so many people in the parishes acknowledged and blessed. It was a great encouragement to those who often feel the uphill struggle.

"We were encouraged by a visit from

Archdeacon Ruth to bring about 'a change in culture' in our churches. This has helped us to push forward to build a church where every member understands that it is all our responsibility and to equip each member to feel confident to share any concerns they may have in a confidential and well understood process."

The Church of England published the safeguarding Past Cases Review 2 (PCR2) report in October, and like most Church of England Dioceses, Chelmsford Diocese also published an Executive Summary of its own PCR 2 Report.

The purpose of PCR2 was to identify both good practice and institutional failings in relation to how allegations of abuse have been handled by the Church, to assess and respond to any risks the Review identified and to provide recommendations for improvement. Read more on PCR 2 at [chelmsford.anglican.org/pcr2](https://chelmsford.anglican.org/pcr2).

**Please pray for all those who have suffered abuse in the Church and their families. Pray for our parish safeguarding officers, diocesan safeguarding team and all those involved in making our churches safe across our diocese.**

**Fri 23** **Pray for:** Newport (St Mary Virgin) w Widdington (St Mary Virgin), Quendon (St Simon & St Jude) w Rickling (All Saints)  
Clergy: Peter Allen (PIC, Chaplain of Stansted Airport).

Rickling CE Primary School: Tracey Bratley (HT).

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

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Okigwe South (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*

**Sat 24** **Christmas Eve**

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Okinawa (The Nippon Sei Ko Kai)*

**Sun 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 Anglican Church of Melanesia*

**Mon 26** **Calendar of Saints: ST STEPHEN, DEACON, FIRST MARTYR**

**Pray for:** 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), Tim Solosy (A).

Brightlingsea (All Saints w St James).

Clergy: Caroline Beckett (V). Licensed Lay Minister: Catherine Graham.

Clacton (St James). Clergy: Justin Hutcherson (V), Louise Oliver (A).

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Oklahoma (The Episcopal Church)*

**Tue 27** **Calendar of Saints: ST JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST**

**Pray for:** Clacton (St Paul). Clergy: David Lower (PIC).

Frinton (St Mary Magdalene). Clergy: Don Smith (R), Laurie Bond (AD, AC). Licensed Lay Minister: Maggie Wilson.

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Okrika (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*



## Soul Food helps build community

The Gateway Project is a Christian community in Halstead, grown out of St Andrew's Church, Halstead.

The project has been running a food outreach programme in their local community since June 2021. Soul Food provides a delicious free two course takeaway service and it's available weekly to anyone who needs it. Since the project's launch it has served over 2,000 meals.

The idea for Soul Food developed out of a door-step conversation between the Revd Jo Parrot the Curate at St Andrew's and Rachael Simpson, the Community Outreach Worker about the impact that the Covid pandemic was having locally, and the church wanted to help meet the needs of the community.

Soul Food is supported by a team of volunteers who give their time and culinary skills to prepare meals for the local community and is led by Rachael.

Last year, the team started an allotment and now regularly uses the produce from the allotment in the takeaway meals

Rachael explains more about the Soul Food project: "We set up the Soul Food takeaway service to help people in our local community who needed support with meals after the first lockdown. If the last couple of years has taught us anything, it's the importance of community, Jesus was big in community and sharing life together. Soul Food is open to all in the local area, and everyone is welcome.

"Hospitality is key to our ministry and is at the centre of what do. We hope that Soul Food is more than a takeaway and that it helps build community. From November this year, we have widened our services to offer sit down meals and hope this will help people connect and build friendships."

To find out more follow [@GatewayHalstead](#) on Facebook.

"I look forward to becoming part of the vibrant and diverse communities served by the diocese of Liverpool.

"We have many challenges ahead of us both in the church and society. A pandemic has shattered human confidence and a cost-of-living crisis is staring at our face. Anxiety, fear, and anger take many forms in such a context.

"As a follower of Christ coming to lead a diocese that aspires to be a bigger church to make a bigger difference, I want to proclaim and live out a message of hope, peace, and justice.

"I pray that I will lead a church that is faithful in offering our communities the hope that we have in God, serving the communities by working together well and in partnership with others.

"The good news in Jesus Christ breaks all barriers and boundaries and is always welcoming and inclusive. I am excited about leading God's people out to proclaim this good news in words and deeds in a new context and to love and care for those I serve.

"I am sad about leaving East London and Essex, and all the lovely people I have come to know and love.

"This is where I was formed as an Archdeacon and then a bishop. I will leave with gratitude and thankfulness for all the grace and love that we experienced together."

Bishop Guli congratulated Bishop John on his appointment: "Bishop John has made a hugely significant contribution to the life of our Diocese as Bishop of Bradwell and before that as Archdeacon of Barking. I have very much enjoyed getting to know him and serving alongside him since I became Bishop of Chelmsford.

"His leadership in the life of the wider church has also been highly valued during his time in our diocese, particularly as a member of the College of Bishops and more recently the House of Bishops, as Chair of the Churches Refugee Network for Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, and during the period in which he served as Chair of the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns.

"His appointment is good news for the Diocese of Liverpool and the Church of England, and I offer John my warm congratulations. But of course, we will miss him in Chelmsford Diocese and particularly on the Bishop's Leadership Team and in the parishes and the worshipping communities of the Bradwell Episcopal Area. We will be praying for him and for his wife as he prepares for this next step in his ministry."

Bishop John will be installed in Liverpool Cathedral at a special service early next year. A farewell service for Bishop John will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on 26 February at 3.30pm.

Read the announcement in full at [chelmsford.anglican.org/news](https://chelmsford.anglican.org/news).

Please pray for the Soul Food programme and its team of volunteers. Pray that the Gateway Project continues to grow, to support and meet the needs of the local community in Halstead.

Please pray for Bishop John and his family as he prepares for his new ministry in Liverpool Diocese.



## Bishop John Perumbalath to become the next Bishop of Liverpool

Downing Street has announced that the Rt Revd Dr John Perumbalath is to be the ninth Bishop of Liverpool. He will succeed Bishop Paul Bayes who retired earlier this year.

Speaking about his appointment, Bishop John, who has served as Bishop of Bradwell in the Diocese of Chelmsford since 2018 said: "I am delighted and humbled to have received this call to be the next Bishop of Liverpool. I have come to love Liverpool through my numerous visits when my daughter was in university here for six years.

### Wed 28 **Calendar of Saints: THE HOLY INNOCENTS**

**Pray for:** Great Clacton (St John the Baptist)

Clergy: Mark Mulryne (V), Ti Chase (A).

Great Clacton C of E Junior School: Karen Jones (HT), Tara Finney (HoS).

Holland-on-Sea (St Bartholomew)

Clergy: Vacancy (PIC), David Lower (AC), Susan Wiggins (AC).

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Oleh (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*

### Thu 29 **Calendar of Saints: Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1170**

**Pray for:** Kirby-Le-Soken (St Michael), Great Holland (All Saints)

Clergy: Mark Holdaway (R)

St Osyth (St Peter & St Paul) w Great Bentley (St Mary Vn)

Sharon Miles (V). Licensed Lay Minister: Wendy King.

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Olo (The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan)*

### Fri 30 **Pray for:** Thorpe-le-Soken (St Michael) Clergy: Vacancy (V).

Thorpe-le-Soken Rolph School: Karen Jones (Executive HT), Nicola Emrich (HoS).

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

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

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

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

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Olympia (The Episcopal Church)*

### Sat 31 **Calendar of Saints: John Wyclif, Reformer, 1384,**

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Omu-Aran (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*



## Communities for Ukrainians Update: Krystyna's story

Krystyna is a 26-year-old Ukrainian, who has been hosted since September by a couple living near Frinton who are members of the church and "hosting hub" at Kirby Le Soken. She has kindly given us permission to tell her story.

"When Guy and Sandi heard of the plight of the Ukrainian people in February, they were moved to help. When they heard that the Diocese had launched "Communities for Ukrainians" they opened their home; they had a Zoom call with me, and with the Revd Andy Griffiths, the scheme coordinator, and a month later I arrived, together with my 13-month-old son Denys.

## January

- Thu 26** **Calendar of Saints: Timothy and Titus, Companions of Paul**  
**Pray for:** Loughton (St Michael & All Angels)  
 Clergy: Lydia Petitt (V); Mark Petitt (AC), Elizabeth Price (AC).  
**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Paraguay (The Anglican Church of South America)*
- Fri 27** **Pray for:** Blackmore (St Laurence) w Stondon Massey (St Peter and St Paul)  
 Clergy: Sam Brazier-Gibbs (V), Jane Marr (A).  
 Licensed Lay Minister: Gail Hughes.  
**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Paraná [Curitiba] (Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil)*
- Sat 28** **Calendar of Saints: Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1274**  
**Pray for:** *The Missionary Diocese of Patheingyi (The Church of the Province of Myanmar)*
- Sun 29** **THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY [OR PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE (CANDLEMAS)]**  
 Let the flame of your love never be quenched in our hearts, O Lord. Waking or sleeping, living or dying, let us delight in your presence. Let the flame of your love brighten our souls and illumine our path, and let the majesty of your glory be our joy, our life and our strength now and for ever. Amen (Johann Arndt, 1555-1621)  
**Pray for:** *The Church of the Pakistan (United)*
- Mon 30** **Calendar of Saints: Charles, King and Martyr, 1649**  
**Pray for:** Chipping Ongar (St Martin) w Shelley (St Peter); Greensted juxta Ongar (St Andrew); Stanford Rivers (St Margaret) Clergy: Hazel Aucken (PIC), Neil Taylor (AC). Licensed Lay Minister: Shirley Dudeney.  
**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Patna (The [United] Church of North India)*
- Tue 31** **Calendar of Saints: John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888**  
**Pray for:** Fyfield (St Nicholas), Bobbingworth (St Germain) & Moreton (St Mary Vn), Willingale (St Christopher) w Shellow and Berners Roding  
 Clergy: Vacancy (PIC).  
 Dr Walker's CE Primary School: Llewellyn Lawson (HT).  
 Moreton CE Primary School: Nikki Batt (HT).  
**Pray for:** *The Diocese of São Paulo (Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil)*



## A reflection on the Wennington Village fires

The Revd Elise Peterson, Vicar of the Parish of Rainham with Wennington has written a reflection following the devastating fires that affected the community of Wennington in the Summer.

“On the afternoon 19 July 2022, one of the hottest days on record in the UK, the village of Wennington suddenly made national news as a fire raged through the village. By that evening, we knew that the church building was intact, but we knew that a significant number of homes had been completely destroyed, many others damaged and all 300 village residents evacuated. In the days that followed the fire, the church has been a place of gathering, of lament and of thanksgiving.

“The day after the fire, when I was able to go into the village, alongside the residents, the church was the place the fire brigade briefed the residents before taking them to see their homes, or what was left of them.

“The fire had burned completely around the churchyard but hadn’t touched the church walls. Several residents of the village

expressed their gratitude that the church was still standing and some even spoke of the ‘halo’ of unburned ground around it as a sign that ‘someone’ was looking out for the church.

“But that was hard to celebrate when so many had lost everything. Why would God choose to spare the church, but not the homes of several faithful church members?

“It’s not a question with an easy answer, but the best answer I can offer is that there needs to be a church in the community of Wennington to serve the people of that village.

“The awful experience of the fire is not something any of us would choose, but it offered a unique opportunity to come alongside and to shine the light of Jesus.

“Wennington Parish Church will be here to serve the local community, not just in the early days after the fire, but through its recovery as rebuilding efforts begin in the months and years to come and beyond.”



Picture: Krystyna and her son Denys with Guy and Sandi.

There was a lot of paperwork involved, both before we came and after we arrived. It dominated the first 6 weeks of our stay. But once we were through all that we all felt we had made it! I spoke some English and from the very start we began a mutual conversation of care and concern and love and blessings. Guy and Sandi have made an effort to learn some Ukrainian, and my English has greatly improved.

“We have embraced the whole experience and live as a family, sharing meals, space and time - including each other in our lives. We share the cooking, Guy and Sandi say I’m a great cook, and seem to like Ukrainian food.

“Denys is now walking and understands English as well as Ukrainian. He’s a happy child, loved by the whole household. His favourite place is the beach which is a few minutes’ walk from our home. We go to the local mother and toddler groups in the area too.

“Of course, the war is an ever-present concern and worry. It lives with us daily, and we have had very bad days - like the day Kiev was bombed and water and electric supplies were cut off for my mother - but good days too, like when Kherson was liberated.”

Gay and Sandi comment: “I would say from our experience it has been a great adventure and in giving up our home, personal space and routine we have gained a new family and an education in all things Ukrainian. It says a great deal about Krystyna as a person that our experience has been so positive.

We thank the Lord for giving us this opportunity to help them in this way. And we are grateful to the church family for their prayers.”

For more information on ‘Communities for Ukrainians’ visit [chelmsford.anglican.org/communities-for-ukrainians](https://chelmsford.anglican.org/communities-for-ukrainians).

**Please pray for all those who have lost their homes to the fires in the Summer and for the community of the Wennington as they continue to recover and rebuild in the months and years ahead.**

**Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. Pray for peace and for all those affected by the war.**



## Meet me at theSHED: Sharing. Helping. Eating. Dagenham.

The parish of Becontree South is located in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham which is ranked as one of the most deprived local authority districts in England in the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation, and the most deprived in London. The local community often face many challenges, not least the cost-of-living crisis, material deprivation and barriers to housing and other services.

In response to this, the church opened the purpose-built church and community centre of St. John the Divine as 'theSHED' - a focal point for outreach and for the provision of a weekly open-access Food Store. There are also plans in the pipeline to offer money management and benefits advice.

The area has high incidence of domestic violence. Assistant Curate, Fr Leigh Daynes, recently started a monthly breakfast for men and boys. Leigh explains: "We know that gender justice and violence against women and girls can't be tackled unless

we work with men and boys. Starting the breakfast is something that I'm particularly passionate about, following the practices of the early church - community-building and community-organising through sharing food."

Some 300 homes in the Parish are cut off from essential services by a major trunk road, the A13, and a wall, leading many elderly people to feel lonely as well as being isolated. The Revd Faye Bailey, Team Rector of Becontree South explained more about plans to help tackle isolation: "We're in talks with the Council to convert a row of abandoned shops into a community hub from which the church can help meet residents' needs and also bring Christ's presence to where they are.

"With our community outreach projects we aim to put into action the Gospel imperative of love with justice through acts of worship and of service."

[becontreesouth.org.uk/theSHED](http://becontreesouth.org.uk/theSHED)

Please pray for the parish of Becontree South as they support their local community through their ministry. Pray for discernment and grace as plans for the community hub continue to take shape.

**Sat 21** **Calendar of Saints: Agnes, Child Martyr at Rome, 304**

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Panama (Iglesia Anglicana de la region Central de America)*

**Sun 22** **THE THIRD SUNDAY OF 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 Church of North India (United)*

**Mon 23** **Pray for:** Loughton (St Mary Vn)

Clergy: Malcolm Macdonald (V), Matt White (A).  
Licensed Lay Ministers: Pat Laker, Brenda Miller.

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Pankshin (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*

**Tue 24** **Calendar of Saints: Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher of the Faith, 1274**

Pray for: 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).

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Panrieng (The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan)*

**Wed 25** **Calendar of Saints: THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL**

**Pray for:** Waltham Abbey TM: Waltham Abbey (Holy Cross & Ninefields St Lawrence), High Beach (Holy Innocents), Upshire (St Thomas) Clergy: Peter Smith (TR), Jane Yeadon (TV), Jane Begley (AC), Trevor Scott (AC)  
High Beech School: Jonathan Furness (Exec.HT), Kate Mortimer (HOS).  
Hillhouse School: Jo Willcox (HT).

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Panyana (The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan)*



## January

### Sun 1 THE NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS

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:* La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico

### Mon 2 **Calendar of Saints:** 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

*Pray for:* Our Bishops - Guli Francis Dehqani, John Perumbalath, Lynne Cullens, and Roger Morris; for the Honorary Assistant Bishops: Adrian Newman, Norman Banks and their families.

*Pray for:* The Diocese of Ondo (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])

### Tue 3 *Pray for:* BARKING EPISCOPAL AREA

Please pray for our Archdeacons: Elwin Cockett (West Ham), Vanessa Herrick (Harlow) and Chris Burke (Barking); and all the members of the Barking Area Team.

*Pray for:* The Diocese of Ontario (The Anglican Church of Canada)

### Wed 4 *Pray for:* The Deanery of Barking and Dagenham

Area Dean: Martin Court. Lay Chair: Andrew Weston. Assistant Area Deans: Unesu Chindabata and Katie Miller. Chaplain: Rachel Allen (North East London Foundation NHS Trust), Stephen Chandler (East London NHS Foundation Trust).

*Pray for:* The Diocese of Oregon (The Episcopal Church)

### Thu 5 *Pray for:* Barking (St Erkenwald) Clergy: Vacancy (PIC).

Becontree South TM (St Alban, St Martin, St John the Divine) Clergy: Faye Bailey (TR), Liz Brown (AC), Raymond Descombes (AC), Leigh Daynes (A). Becontree St Cedd Clergy: Unesu Chindabata (PIC).

*Pray for:* The Diocese of Eastern Oregon (The Episcopal Church)

## Bishop Lynne meets the students who designed her pectoral cross

The Right Reverend Lynne Cullens, the Bishop of Barking, recently visited the London Design & Engineering University Technical College in East London to meet some of the students who were involved in the design and creation of her pectoral cross.

Students across two different subjects – art and engineering – worked together and put the skills they have learnt on the curriculum into practice to create the pectoral cross. The Art students were challenged to incorporate Bishop Lynne’s passions, interests and background into their designs; the Engineering students were then tasked to bring these designs into physical realisation.

Bishop Lynne chose her favourite design from those created by the students.

This was then made and presented to her during her welcome service back in February. The pectoral cross is an important symbol of a bishop’s ministry alongside the pastoral staff, cope and mitre.

Commenting on her visit to the College, Bishop Lynne said “Visiting the London Design & Engineering University Technical College was really inspiring. It was fantastic to meet some of the talented young people who designed and manufactured my pectoral cross and to gain an insight into the process behind it.

“The students followed the brief and had created designs uniquely personal to me, my faith journey and my ministry. I’m grateful to them - for their skills and the hard work that they put into making my pectoral cross.”

Please pray for all the staff and students of the London Design & Engineering University Technical College.



## Plough Sunday

The Plough at Thaxted Parish Church.

Throughout history our church buildings have been places of shelter. On cold, dark January days it's easy to imagine the protection provided by the stone walls, and the uplifting welcome of precious candle-light, symbolic of the light of Christ proclaimed within the walls.

In the Middle Ages, our rural churches offered protection and shelter to those things precious to the community too, most notably, the communal plough.

These special communal roles provided by our churches aren't consigned to history books. Many communities chose to place their Book of Condolence to Her late Majesty the Queen in their parish churches.

Thousands of people visited their local church to write their message of condolence; many lit a candle and stayed to reflect for a while.

Our churches continue to offer places of communal reflection, prayer and blessing at important junctures in life.

Plough Sunday marks the day when the communal plough was brought into the nave as the community prayed, contemplated the essential work of producing food and asked God's blessing on the agricultural year ahead. Many rural communities will continue this tradition on Plough Sunday 2023.

Enormous challenges face those who work the land including climate change, environmental sustainability and global food shortages.

Agricultural practice across our diocese has the potential to impact positively or negatively on all three. The role of our churches in offering prayer, reflection and God's blessing for those at the forefront of this work is not to be underestimated.

Please invite widely to the Plough Sunday services taking place across the Diocese or to the Plough Sunday service at Thaxted Parish Church, CM6 2PE on Sunday 15th January 2023 at 11.00am.

**Revd Canon Janet Nicholls**  
Rural Adviser and Agricultural Chaplain

Pray for the Revd Canon Janet Nicholls as she provides ministry to rural communities and churches across our diocese and chaplaincy to our farming communities.

**Tue 17** **Calendar of Saints: Antony of Egypt, Hermit, Abbot, 356**  
**Charles Gore, Bishop, Founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932**  
**Pray for:** Buckhurst Hill (St John, St Stephen, St Elisabeth)  
Clergy: Ian Farley (TR), Tania Payne (A). Licensed Lay Minister: Steve Bacon.  
St John's School: Jonathan Furness (HT).  
**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Owo (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*

**Wed 18** **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18-25 January**  
**Calendar of Saints: Amy Carmichael, Founder of the Dohnavur Fellowship, Spiritual Writer, 1951**  
**Pray for:** 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: Charlie Kosla (TR), Ann Kosla (AC), Lorraine Smart (AC), Paula Preston (TV). Licensed Lay Minister: Sandie Forshaw.  
Chigwell School: David Wilson (CHP).  
**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Oxford (The Church of England)*

**Thu 19** **Calendar of Saints: Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095**  
**Pray for:** Epping District TM: Epping (St John), Epping Upland (All Saints), Coopersale (St Alban) Clergy: Lee Batson (AD, TR), Olivia Maxfield-Coote (TV), Jessica Bostock (A), Jaimee Summers (A).  
Licensed Lay Minister: Diana Lowry, Steven Snooks.  
St John's Comprehensive School: Mike Yerosimou (HoS).  
Epping Upland School: Sarah Hurwood (HT).  
Coopersale & Theydon Garnon School: Dale Bateman (HT).  
**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Oyo (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*

**Fri 20** **Calendar of Saints: Richard Rolle, Spiritual Writer, 1349**  
**Pray for:** Loughton (St John the Baptist, St Nicholas, Trinity Church)  
Clergy: Chris Davies (R), Barbara Read (AC).  
**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Pacong (The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan)*



## 'Spirituality Day' at William Ford School

William Ford C of E Junior School in Dagenham works hard to ensure all its pupils learn about the gospel and encounter God not only through times of collective worship, but through its curriculum and special themed days.

One such day is their annual 'Spirituality Day' when the school dedicates time to focus on some of the bigger, more challenging questions.

During this year's 'Spirituality Day' pupils thought about how to communicate with God and explored a variety of ways they could put this into practice by visiting different prayer stations. Each prayer station included a fun activity to help the children engage in prayer and reflection.

David Huntingford, Headteacher at William Ford School explained: "Our 'Spirituality Day' is not about teachers providing the answers but encouraging our children to think deeply and critically whilst considering the biblical perspective on issues.

"We began with a time of collective worship: considering what prayer is and why we should pray.

"Throughout the day, our children considered questions like 'if I could have a conversation with God, what would I say?' and 'if you could be God for the day, what would you do?'"

Talking about the prayer stations that each class visited, Richard Wakeford, Creative and Wellbeing curriculum leader at William Ford School said: "Whether it was writing prayers for other countries and placing them on a world map or writing prayers on a paper aeroplane and throwing them towards God; or even writing prayers for our government and posting them into our 'diplomatic' post box, our children were full of excitement and enthusiasm to connect spiritually with others, through prayer and reflection."

Reggy Hart, a year four pupil, added: "I really liked visiting the different prayer stations. We got to write our prayers in different ways, have a discussion and then we could read them out if we wanted."

The school now has plans to partner with their local church to open prayer spaces during break and lunch times for pupils. The prayer spaces will be led and supported by members of Dagenham Parish Church.

**Please pray for the staff and pupils at William Ford C of E Junior School. Pray that the partnership between the school and local church continues to thrive so that pupils can enjoy the new prayer spaces.**

### Fri 6 THE EPIPHANY

**Pray for:** Becontree (St Elisabeth)  
Clergy: Christopher Bolster (V), Martin Court (AD, AC).  
Becontree (St Thomas)  
Clergy: Gemma Stock (V). Licensed Lay Minister: Pennie Ley.

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Orlu (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*

**Sat 7** **Pray for:** *The Diocese of Oru (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*

### Sun 8 THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST (FIRST 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 Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma)*

**Mon 9** **Pray for:** Becontree (St Mary, Hartley Brook Church) Clergy: Katie Miller (V), Tim Broadbent (A), Cliff McLeod (A), Cecilia Morkeh-Yamson Pelligrin (A) Bill Miller (Pioneer Minister).

Chadwell Heath (St Chad) Clergy: Martin Court (AD, V);  
Christine Harding (AC), Kate Szejmann (A), Elwon John (AC).

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Osaka (The Nippon Sei Ko Kai)*

**Tue 10** **Calendar of Saints: William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645**

**Pray for:** Dagenham (St Peter and St Paul) Clergy: Joel Edwards (V).  
William Ford Junior School: David Huntingford (HT).

Dagenham Park CE School: Chris Ash (HT).

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Osun (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*

**Wed 11** **Calendar of Saints: Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915**

**Pray for:** Becontree (St George) Clergy: Simon Berry (PIC).  
Marks Gate (St Mark) Clergy: Alexandra Guest (PIC).

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Osun North (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*



## A Warm Welcome at the Abbey Church this winter

St Margaret's Church Barking is known as 'The Abbey Church'. This speaks to their history, as part of the ancient Barking Abbey complex, and their location today in the centre of Abbey Green. Abbeys were centres of worship, prayer and hospitality and The Revd Mark Adams, Vicar at St Margaret's Church believes that being 'The Abbey Church' can also guide them in their ministry today.

For many years St Margaret's has had a Community Café running in its Church Centre, which is open to everyone for low-cost lunches. This winter the church is developing two new opportunities to serve their local community.

The first is by running a 'Warm Welcome Space', in response to the rising cost of energy bills.

This will be open from 10am to 3pm three days a week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Revd Mark explains: "We have comfortable seating, free tea and coffee, TV, Wi-Fi and space to work. Most importantly, the heating will be on!"

The church is also restarting their 'Rough Sleepers Breakfast' for the first time since the pandemic. From 8am to 9am every Tuesday there will be a simple breakfast available in our Church centre to play a small part in meeting the needs of those who do not have anywhere to live.

Mark continues: "We hope these will be tangible ways of showing support for the people of Barking through a challenging winter."

**Please pray that St Margaret's Church will have the volunteers needed to sustain this work and that all those who come to the church will experience something of God's love for them.**

**Thu 12** **Calendar of Saints: Aelrad of Hexham, Bishop of Rievaulx, 1167**  
**Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, Scholar, 689**

**Pray for:** Barking (St Margaret) Clergy: Mark Adams (V).

St Margaret's School: Sophie Bannon (HOS) and Amir Lemouchi (Exec HT).

George Carey Primary School: Christopher Harrison (HT).

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Osun East (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*

**Fri 13** **Calendar of Saints: Hilary, Bishop, Teacher of the Faith, 367**  
**Kentigern (Mungo), Missionary bishop, 603**  
**George Fox, Founder of the Society of Friends (Quakers)**

**Pray for:** Barking (St Patrick)

Clergy: Christopher Bolster (V). Licensed Lay Minister: Matthew Harding.

Thames View (Christ Church) Clergy: Unesu Chindabata (V), Shade Barnes (A).

Barking Riverside Clergy: Samuel Pollard (Lead Minister), Urbain Matsalou-Yombe (A)

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

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Ottawa (The Anglican Church of Canada)*

**Sat 14** **Pray for:** *The Diocese of Otukpo (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*

**Sun 15** **THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**

In the coming Week of Prayer for 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 Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

**Mon 16** **Pray for: The Deanery of Epping Forest and Ongar**

Area Dean: Lee Batson. Lay Chair: Martyn Lockwood.

Assistant Area Deans: Malcolm Macdonald, Peter Smith.

CHP: Ann Kosla (St Clare Hospice)

**Pray for:** *The Diocese of Owerri (The Church of Nigeria [Anglican Communion])*