



Blackburn Prayers December 2023

Welcome to Blackburn Prayers.

We continue to pray daily for all those affected by the terrible violence in Israel and Gaza and for all who work for peace, unity and healing there. Meanwhile we also continue to pray for the people of Ukraine as they face ongoing Russian aggression.

In addition to the short prayers we provide daily, you are encouraged to embellish your prayers as appropriate in relation to the latest news from Israel and Gaza and also from Ukraine on any given day. Prayer resources for Ukraine can be found [on this page](#) of the Diocesan website while prayer resources for Israel and Gaza can be found [here](#).

Remember, we continue to ask for people in our parishes to actively report 'Answers to Prayer' to us, as an encouragement to all. For current responses [click here](#) to go to the 'Answers to Prayer' page on the Diocesan website.

If you have an answer to prayer for sharing, email beingwitnesses@blackburn.anglican.org with your name, parish and short report of 50-75 words max. Prayer answered can also be submitted anonymously if you prefer - please advise of this when emailing.

Meanwhile, if you have not already subscribed to receive the 'Daily Prayers' version of Blackburn Prayers to your email inbox each day please consider doing so. Simply [click the link here](#) to make it happen.

We continue to feature Bible verses to meditate on and memorise each month as part of the ongoing Bible Challenge across the Diocese. We also continue with Vision 2026 prayers reflecting the Vision key themes of Making Disciples, Being Witnesses, Growing Leaders and Inspiring Youth/Children and Schools.

We also have prayers for National Church Funded Projects in Blackpool, Blackburn and Preston; and we also pray for the Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs) in our parishes.

If you have any comments, amendments or updates regarding Blackburn Prayers, please direct them to karen.ashcroft@blackburn.anglican.org in the first instance. For more about the parishes in this month's edition, click on the links taking you to either the parish website or its 'A Church Near You' site.

Key: cw = Churchwarden of Vacant Parish
llm = Licensed Lay Minister

Friday 1 December

Charles de Foucauld, hermit, 1916

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Making Disciples – Romans 8.37-39

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Vision 2026: We pray for those working to produce a series of discipleship podcasts to be launched soon, aimed at engaging younger adults and offering creative content that helps people grow in faith.

Diocese: Laneside St Peter, Rev Stephen Brown

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bangor – The Church in Wales

Saturday 2 December

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Making Disciples – Romans 8.37-39

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Vision 2026: We pray for the growth of 'joyful, generous stewards' for whom giving is an integral part of discipleship.

Diocese: Oswaldtwistle, Rev Matt Malins, Rev Carole Garner, Miss Judith Addison (llm), Mrs Heather Aspbury (llm); also in this Benefice, Oswaldtwistle St Andrew's CofE Primary School, Oswaldtwistle St Paul's CofE Primary School

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Banks and Torres – The Anglican Church of Melanesia

Sunday 3 December First Sunday of Advent

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Making Disciples – Romans 8.37-39

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Mission Partners: [Life Association](#) ask for prayer for God's provision for their work amongst India's poorest people, and for His protection and blessing on their projects partners and those they serve.

Vision 2026: We give thanks for the growth of Whalley Abbey as a centre for Christian Discipleship and Prayer, and pray for those young disciples who offer a year of their time as part of a growing community centred on prayer, hospitality and service.

Diocese: Blackburn with Darwen Deanery Officers, Rev Canon Andrew Horsfall, Mrs Kathryn Adnitt, Mrs Elaine Williams

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of North India (United)

Event: We pray today, as Advent begins, that many may hear the Christmas story in the coming weeks and come to know Jesus.

Monday 4 December

John of Damascus, monk, teacher of the faith, c.749;

Nicholas Ferrar, deacon, founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Making Disciples – Romans 8.37-39

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Vision 2026: We pray for the distribution of the Advent Devotionals and ask that many will be encouraged in the habit of reading the Bible daily through these resources.

Diocese: Blackburn Christ Church with St Matthew, Rev Canon Andrew Raynes, Rev Sam Dickinson; also in this Benefice, Blackburn St Matthew's CofE Primary School

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Barbados – The Church in the Province of the West Indies

Meeting: Vision and Strategy meeting; Missional and Financial Flourishing meeting

Tuesday 5 December

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Making Disciples – Romans 8.37-39

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Mothers' Union: Heavenly Father, we place into your hands the Mothers' Union here in Blackburn Diocese. We pray for all involved in the organisation and running of about 100 branches throughout the Diocese. Surround them with your Holy Spirit as they seek to promote the importance of marriage, to support families and to nurture faith, through prayer, commitment, and service. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Vision 2026: We pray for the team of Spiritual Directors, for wisdom as they seek to match each person seeking a spiritual companion or director with the right person to help them grow in their spiritual life. We also pray for the new Warden of Spiritual Directors, Rev Mary Ashton, who will be commissioned in early January.

Diocese: Blackburn St Aidan and St Luke, St Mark and St Philip, Rev Canon Cath Brooks, Rev Jason Gardner, Rev Alan Gault; also in this Benefice, Blackburn Mill Hill St Aidan's Primary School, a CofE Academy, Blackburn St Luke's and St Philip's CofE Primary School, Blackburn St Wilfrid's CofE Academy

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bari – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Clergy Moves: Rev Shaun Baldwin, Vicar of Lund St John the Evangelist

Wednesday 6 December

Nicholas, bishop, c.326

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Making Disciples – Romans 8.37-39

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Vision 2026: We pray for fresh inspiration for all those who plan and lead worship, that lives will be transformed as people of all ages encounter Jesus in word and sacrament.

Diocese: Blackburn St Andrew's Livesey (in plurality with) Blackburn St Barnabas, Rev Canon Andrew Raynes; also in this Benefice, Blackburn St Barnabas and St Paul's CofE Primary School

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Baringo – The Anglican Church of Kenya

Meeting: Strategic Programme Board meeting

Thursday 7 December

Ambrose, bishop, teacher of the faith,
397

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Making Disciples – Romans 8.37-39

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Hope Community Church: Pray for the Advent and Christmas programme that the Gospel will be proclaimed: Specifically Carol Services in the community and in the schools.

Vision 2026: We pray for the growth of new and deeper disciples of Jesus Christ.

Diocese: Blackburn St Gabriel, Rev Stephen Corbett, Mr Paul Adnitt (Ilm), Mrs Barbara Foster (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Blackburn St Gabriel's CofE Primary School

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Barisal – The Church of Bangladesh

Friday 8 December

Conception of the Blessed Virgin
Mary

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Making Disciples – Romans 8.37-39

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Vision 2026: Pray for parishes preparing for and hosting missions led by the Parish Mission team. Pray that men, women and children hear the gospel in their own language.

Diocese: Blackburn St Mary the Virgin with St Paul (Cathedral and Parish Church), Very Rev Peter Howell-Jones, Rev Canon James Lawrence, Rev Canon Gary O'Neill

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Barrackpore – The Church of North India (United)

Saturday 9 December

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Making Disciples – Romans 8.37-39

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Mission Partners: Our Church Mission Society partners, 'A' and 'L', would welcome your prayer for their ongoing work in local schools and communities in South East Asia. Pray for the economy to recover so that people can make ends meet, schools can re-open fully and people receive the treatment they need.

Vision 2026: Pray for more workers of all backgrounds for the plentiful harvest fields across Lancashire and for intercessors who are ambitious, insightful and who storm the gates of heaven.

Diocese: Blackburn St Silas, Rev Sheelagh Aston; also in this Benefice, Blackburn St Silas' CofE Primary School, Wensley Fold CofE Primary Academy

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bath and Wells – The Church of England

Sunday 10 December Second Sunday of Advent

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Making Disciples – Romans 8.37-39

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Vision 2026: Pray for a visitation of the Holy Spirit on Lancashire to light beacons in every community.

Diocese: Blackburn St Stephen and St James, Rev Dr Sarah Gill, Rev Peter Dillon; also in this Benefice, Blackburn St James' CofE Primary School, Blackburn St Stephen's CofE Primary School

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Pakistan (United)

Monday 11 December

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Being Witnesses – 1 Peter 3.15

But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

Vision 2026: Pray for it to become normal for every parish to be planting congregations and churches to fulfil the Anglican ambition to be a 'Christian presence in every community' across Lancashire.

Diocese: Blackburn The Redeemer, Rev Christopher Anderton, Rev James Lapping, Mr Duncan Stowe (Ilm), Mr John Ashcroft (Ilm), Mr Philip Beresford (Ilm), Mr Geoff Hutchinson (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Blackburn The Redeemer CofE Primary School

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bathurst – The Anglican Church of Australia

Tuesday 12 December

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Being Witnesses – 1 Peter 3.15

But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

M:Power: During this season of Advent and Christmas we pray that the enthusiastic witness of both the M:Power students and the ministry of the Roman Road Estate and Over Darwen, will encourage people to explore the season in a deeper way.

Vision 2026: Pray for the continuing growth of the church in Lancashire, building joyful Christian communities with an ever-stronger voice for justice, especially for the poorest, enabling people to know God's love, peace and justice.

Diocese: Darwen St Cuthbert with Tockholes St Stephen, Rev Nicholas Davis; also in this Benefice, Darwen St Cuthbert's CofE Primary School, Tockholes St Stephen's CofE Primary School

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bauchi – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Meeting: Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel meeting

Wednesday 13 December

Lucy, martyr, 304;
Samuel Johnson, moralist, 1784;
Ember Day

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Being Witnesses – 1 Peter 3.15

But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

Vision 2026: Pray for baptism and confirmation candidates to be fired up to be beacons of faith in their schools, workplaces and communities.

Diocese: Darwen St Peter, Rev Alison Mitchell; also in this Benefice, Darwen Holy Trinity VC School, Darwen St Peter's CofE Primary School

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Belize – The Church in the Province of the West Indies

Meeting: Diocesan Advisory Committee meeting

Thursday 14 December

John of the Cross, poet, teacher of the faith, 1591

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Being Witnesses – 1 Peter 3.15

But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

Vision 2026: For us to be mindful of the gifts of God's Creation: earth, water, air, our fellow creatures and that we come together, with all that God has made, into a common home, a place of thankfulness and peace.

Diocese: Feniscliffe St Francis, Vacant, Mrs Pat Rushton (cw); also in this Benefice, Livesey St Francis CofE Primary School

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bendigo – The Anglican Church of Australia

Friday 15 December
Ember Day

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Being Witnesses – 1 Peter 3.15

But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

Clergy with PTO: Bless, O Lord, all clergy in our Diocese who are retired with Permission to Officiate. Grant them your continued wisdom and strength to serve. We are thankful for the many ways they provide invaluable support as we work together making disciples, growing leaders, being witnesses and inspiring children and young people for Jesus Christ.

Vision 2026: Give thanks for all who exercise leadership in our Diocese, for clergy and lay leaders. Pray that they may have the faithfulness, the wisdom and the joy that they will need to lead churches that transform their local communities in the name of Jesus Christ.

Diocese: Fenisowles Immanuel, Vacant, Mr Phil Entwistle (cw)

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Beni – Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

Saturday 16 December
Ember Day

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Being Witnesses – 1 Peter 3.15

But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

Vision 2026: Pray that all might hear God's call in their life and be ready to respond with faithful obedience. Pray that all Christians may feel equipped to live out their faith in the family, the workplace and in their local communities.

Diocese: Hoddlesden St Paul's and Darwen St Barnabas, Rev Ben Marston, Rev Matt Gaze, Mrs Lillian Duffy (Ilm), Mr Kenneth Lee (Ilm), Mrs Margaret Walsh (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Darwen St Barnabas CofE Primary Academy, Hoddlesden St Paul's CofE Primary School

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Benin – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Sunday 17 December
Third Sunday of Advent
O Sapientia

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Being Witnesses – 1 Peter 3.15

But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

Sisters of the Order of the Companions of Mary and Martha: Pray for Sister Judith and Sister Sue at St Joseph's House, Tunstall, living a vowed life of prayerful presence and hospitality. Give thanks for their faithful witness to the gospel and bless all who visit there seeking peace and refreshment.

Vision 2026: Pray for more vocations to lay leadership, priesthood and to the religious life, especially for vocations amongst young adults and people of global majority heritage.

Diocese: Knuzden St Oswald, Vacant, Mrs Jillie Peach (cw); also in this Benefice, Knuzden St Oswald CoE Primary School

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

Monday 18 December

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Being Witnesses – 1 Peter 3.15

But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

Vision 2026: Pray for all whose leadership is hidden or unacknowledged and for those who are yet to discover the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given them.

Diocese: Lower Darwen St James (in plurality with) Over Darwen St James, Rev Rebecca Roberts, Rev Alice Cole, Rev Kevin Colyer, Ms Sharon Collins (Ilm), Miss Susan Lloyd (Ilm), Mrs Valerie Lucas (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Darwen St James' CofE Primary Academy, Lower Darwen St James' CofE Primary School

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bentiu – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

Meeting: Bishop's Budget Team meeting

Tuesday 19 December

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Being Witnesses – 1 Peter 3.15

But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

Vision 2026: Pray for all those in training for leadership, especially our trainee Authorised Lay Ministers, Licensed Lay Ministers, ordinands and curates that they may be formed for the ministries they have been called to.

Diocese: North and East Blackburn, Rev Nicholas Heale; also in this Benefice, Blackburn St Michael with St John's CofE Primary School, Blackburn St Thomas; CofE Primary School

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bermuda – (Extra Provincial)

Wednesday 20 December

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Being Witnesses – 1 Peter 3.15

But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

Vision 2026: Pray for lay and ordained leaders who are struggling, for those who may have lost the joy of ministry or who feel despondent or overwhelmed by the challenges that face them. Pray that God will guide supporters who can help them draw strength from Him.

Diocese: The Royal Blackburn Hospital, Rev Canon Andrew Horsfall, Rev Joanne Macholc, Rev David Anderson, Rev Rachel Fielding

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bethlehem – The Episcopal Church

Thursday 21 December

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

Vision 2026: Pray for the Growing Leaders' staff team and all the volunteers who work with them in discerning, nurturing and supporting vocations to lay and ordained ministry, that their work may enable many to follow God's call on their lives.

Diocese: Blackpool Deanery Officers, Rev Peter Lillicrap, Rev David O'Brien, Mrs Diane Dennett, Mrs Janet Rimmer, Mrs Rita Templeton

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bhopal – The Church of North India (United)

Friday 22 December

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

Vision 2026: Pray for parents that they have confidence and are equipped to raise children who have a living relationship with God.

Diocese: Anchorsholme All Saints, Rev Anthony Barnshaw, Mrs Jess Rowe (Ilm)

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bida – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Saturday 23 December

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

Mission Partners: Pray for 'Graham and Fiona' working in a hospital and a college, in a least-reached part of Africa. Much of their work involves removing obstacles (rocky soil) and walking alongside people who want to grow into a fuller understanding of the love of God in Jesus.

Vision 2026: Pray for children and young people that they are able to identify their gifts and recognise God's calling on their lives, allowing them to passionately serve and lead others.

Diocese: Bispham All Hallows, Rev Jonny Lee, Mrs Diane Dennett (Ilm), Ms Gina Hibbert (Ilm), Mrs Annie Riley (Ilm), Mr Keith Stevenson (Ilm), Mrs Linda Whitworth (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Blackpool Bispham Endowed CofE Primary School

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Biharamulo – The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Sunday 24 December
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

Vision 2026: Pray for young people's faith, rooted in Jesus Christ, to be nurtured, disciplined and shared within their communities.

Diocese: Blackpool Christ Church with All Saints, Rev Adrian Wolton

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

Monday 25 December
Christmas Day

Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth. Accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you this Christmas Day and every day; our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen.

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

Vision 2026: Pray for the Inspiring Youth Learning Community, that churches across the Diocese will grow in confidence to enable and grow new youth ministries.

Diocese: Blackpool Holy Cross South Shore, Rev Michael Fish

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Birmingham – The Church of England

Tuesday 26 December
Stephen, deacon, first martyr

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

Lighting Up New Generations: May our churches be a place of welcome during this period of Advent and Christmas, reaching out to those who may only consider the Christian faith once a year.

Vision 2026: Pray for all schools and academies to be beacons of faith in their communities.

Diocese: Blackpool Holy Trinity South Shore (in plurality with) Blackpool St Peter South Shore, Rev Canon Tracy Charnock, Mr Fred Bridges (Ilm)

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Blackburn – The Church of England

Wednesday 27 December
John, Apostle and Evangelist

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

Vision 2026: Pray for all schools and academies to encourage and equip pupils to be courageous advocates for the Gospel, fighting injustice locally and globally.

Diocese: Blackpool St Christopher and St Nicholas, Rev Martin Daniels, Rev Ian Rushton; also in this Benefice, Blackpool St Nicholas' CofE Primary School

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bo – The Church of the Province of West Africa

Thursday 28 December
The Holy Innocents

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

Ladyewell House: For Rev David Craven, Bishop Jill and Bishop Philip establishing the new contextual training pathway for Traditional Catholic Ordinands based in Preston; to find a first cohort.

Vision 2026: Pray for our chaplains in schools and universities, that they may be a Christian presence in education, witnessing to the transforming effect of Jesus on people's lives and encouraging the exploration of the Gospel.

Diocese: Blackpool St John, Rev Andy Dykes, Rev Tom Swallow, Dr Bill Ward (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Blackpool St John's CofE Primary School

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Boga – Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

Friday 29 December
Thomas Becket, archbishop, martyr,
1170

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

Vision 2026: For the staff in the Diocesan Offices in Blackburn giving support to parishes through their work in the areas of HR, finance, safeguarding, communications, property, legal and governance, as they share their knowledge and skills for the benefit of mission.

Diocese: Blackpool St Mary South Shore, Rev Robert Legge; also in this Benefice, Blackpool St George's School, a CofE Business and Enterprise College

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bolivia – The Anglican Church of South America

Saturday 30 December

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

Vision 2026: For the support provided to clergy and their families to have suitable homes from which to be leaders in mission.

Diocese: Blackpool St Paul North Shore and Greenlands St Anne, Rev Dr Deborah Prest, Mrs Angela Kershaw (Ilm)

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bondo – The Anglican Church of Kenya

Sunday 31 December First Sunday of Christmas

Heavenly Father as we come to the end of the year we give thanks for all the support and encouragement given to our parishes by the Diocesan staff over the past year. We ask your blessing on them as they continue this important work in the coming year. May they know your presence in their work and your guidance in their lives. Amen.

Israel and Palestine: We pray for all those affected by the crisis in Israel and Palestine; for the families of all those who have lost their lives; for the displaced and for an end to the bloodshed. We pray that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will bring His peace to the region. Information and prayer resources [here](#).

Ukraine: We continue to pray for the country and people of Ukraine as they face the Russian Federation aggression. Diocesan prayer for Ukraine alongside other resources [here](#).

Bible Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

Choir Church: Pray for the Choir Church Co-ordinator and musicians as they enable Choir Churches to proclaim the Gospel through Advent and Christmas programmes.

Vision 2026: For the whole community in the Diocesan Offices, Clayton House and Bishop's House, who through their varied ministries support the work of all the churches and church schools in the Diocese of Blackburn.

Diocese: Blackpool St Stephen on the Cliffs, Rev Andrew Teather

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda