# Diocese of Bath and Wells Prayer Calendar December 2023

## Friday, 1 Dec

Creator God, may you be our guiding light on this journey towards Christmas. Help us find our way through the darkness of winter towards the light of spring and your love. Amen.

## Saturday, 2 Dec

God our provider, thank you for the water we have to drink. We pray for those without clean drinking water and ask that you would remind us how privileged we are. Amen.

## Sunday, 3 Dec

Creator of Heaven and Earth, we marvel at the variety of weather. We give thanks for the rain which supports life and the sun which helps plants grow. Amen.

## Monday, 4 Dec

Dear God, thank you for creating the plants that nourish us, providing clean air for us to breathe, giving us shade and shelter, and so much more. Amen.

## Tuesday, 5 Dec

Thank you Lord for the coming of Christ, one of the greatest gifts you have given us. Help us this Advent season to wait in joyful anticipation. Amen.

## Wednesday, 6 Dec

Heavenly Father, the sun, moon and stars were created by you. Remind us that we are also created by you as part of your mighty plan. Amen.

## Thursday, 7 Dec

Lord Almighty, the oceans are filled with abundant life! May we remember how we are trusted to care for them and the resources they provide. Amen.

## Friday, 8 Dec

Thank you Lord for all the wondrous creatures you have made which teach us about your nature. May we cherish them all and seek to care for our planet to help it thrive. Amen.

## Saturday, 9 Dec

Father we are commanded to be stewards of your creation. Help us to recognise the impact we have through the choices we make. Amen.

## Sunday, 10 Dec

Lord of all, thank you that you formed us from the dust of the Earth and breathed life into us. We pray especially for those whose breathing is affected by pollution. Amen.

## Monday, 11 Dec

God of creation, we thank you that you laid a perfect foundation on the Earth. Help us to look after creation so that it reflects Heaven. Amen.

## Tuesday, 12 Dec

Loving God, we give you thanks for the provision of food. May we enjoy what you provide and be considerate of our planet in the choices we make. Amen.

## Wednesday, 13 Dec

Father, we are all part of your family. Give us eyes to see everyone as brothers and sisters and show them the same love that you do. Amen.

## Thursday, 14 Dec

Dear God, you know us all by name. As we encounter other species, may we think about their place in your world. Amen.

## Friday, 15 Dec

We thank you God for the gift of time and for the changing seasons. May we learn from nature to accept the different seasons of life. Amen.

## Saturday, 16 Dec

Father, thank you for electricity that enables light, but we thank you more for Jesus who brought the light of God into our dark world. Amen.

## Sunday, 17 Dec

Lord, thank you that Joseph heard from you and his actions changed. We pray that more people will hear your voice about how to look after the planet and act on it. Amen.

## Monday, 18 Dec

Today we ask for protection for all those who are travelling to see their loved ones this Christmas. May their journeys bring them joy as well as reaching their destination. Amen.

## Tuesday, 19 Dec

God of creation, thank you that you chose to live among us in the person of Jesus. We are sorry for harming your creation. Show us how we can put things right. Amen.

## Wednesday, 20 Dec

Lord, we pray for maternity wards and midwifes that help bring new life into the world. We pray for those who don’t have access to safe maternity services. Amen.

## Thursday, 21 Dec

Lord, we thank you for seeing everyone as equal and that you chose the marginalised shepherds to share in the birth of your Son Jesus. Amen.

## Friday, 22 Dec

Dear God, thank you for the signs you give us. Help those in authority to use their wisdom for the good of the planet. Amen.

## Saturday, 23 Dec

Almighty God, we ask you to fill us with joy today. Let our smiles represent your love so that others will come to know you. Amen.

## Sunday, 24 Dec

Lord, we thank you for the gifts that the wise men brought to Jesus and for what they represent. We pray for those who won’t receive a gift this Christmas and that they will know that they are loved by you. Amen.

## Monday, 25 Dec – Christmas Day

God, who created the earth, we thank you for the inspiration of your Son, Jesus, who came to earth in human form and showed us how to live. Give us the humility to learn from that example and the words to praise you for that generous love.

## Tuesday, 26 Dec - Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr

Servant God, we pray for all who are still at work through Christmas, especially in the emergency services and all key workers.  Thank you for their dedication, skill and care for so many and we ask you to bless them.

## Wednesday, 27 Dec - John, Apostle and Evangelist

Jesus, Word of God, as we remember your servant John, we pray that we, like him, may be able to live and tell your story and share the love of God with all around us.

## Thursday, 28 Dec - The Holy Innocents

Loving God, during this Christmas season we pray for children across the world who are hungry and afraid. We give thanks for those who reach out with compassion and care across the world and for our Magnificat parishes as they seek to be beacons of hope with the gifts and resources that they have.

## Friday, 29 Dec

Timeless God, as we remember Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury who was martyred in 1170, we pray for our current archbishop, Justin Welby.  We pray that you will bless him with wisdom, grace, faith and courage in his ministry.

## Saturday, 30 Dec

Creator God, we pray for Zambia during the rainy season: that they will have the rainfall needed for crops to grow and develop. We give thanks for our link to the Zambian dioceses and the blessing that they are to us.

## Sunday, 31 Dec

Loving Lord, as we look to the New Year and new beginnings, we pray for all those who sense your call to a new ministry. We pray for all those involved in vocations that they enable others to vocalise their sense of calling and accompany them as they explore.