

December 2022

**Sunday,
25 December
Christmas Day**

Today, the soles of God's feet have touched the earth. Today, the back streets and forgotten places are lit up with significance. Today, the households of earth welcome the King of heaven. For you have come along us, Lord Jesus, you are one with us.

**Monday,
26 December
Stephen, Deacon,
First Martyr**

As we remember Stephen, one of the first deacons, we pray for all those who are called to serve God as deacons, seeking those in the forgotten corners of the world and accompanying them on their faith journey.

**Tuesday,
27 December
John, Apostle and
Evangelist**

Compassionate God, we give thanks for and pray for all in the emergency services who continue to work with such skill and commitment through the Christmas season. Help us to appreciate them in word and action.

**Wednesday,
28 December
The Holy
Innocents**

Loving God, we give thanks for the many warm spaces that have been made available across our diocese during these winter months. We ask you to bless this ministry of welcome and pray that they may be places of sanctuary, warmth and love for all who experience them.

**Thursday,
29 December**

Lord, as we remember Thomas Becket, Archbishop and Martyr, we pray for Archbishops across the Anglican Communion and other churches and ask you to fill them with courage and integrity as they lead Christians across your world.

**Friday,
30 December**

Loving God, we give thanks for Area and Lay Deans across our diocese: for their faithful leadership and diligent service in times of change and challenging decisions. We ask that you bless them in their ministry.

**Friday,
31 December**

In that space between the close of one year and the dawn of another, Lord, give us grateful hearts for all that has been good, strength to let go of any past hurts and hope for the year ahead.

**Thursday,
1 December**

As the FIFA World Cup continues, we thank you for sports such as football which help unite people from across the world. We thank you that it helps to build friendships and break down barriers, especially in areas with turmoil and war.

**Friday,
2 December**

Lord of life, thank you for those seeking to reach and disciple young people, in small groups as well as through larger gatherings. We pray for Movement's End of Year Celebration in Weston-super-Mare tomorrow evening and for all who will gather there.

**Saturday,
3 December**

God of healing, we pray for our hospices, hospitals and care homes and for all who offer end of life care within our communities. We pray for people from Quantock Deanery gathering to explore end of life spiritual care.

**Sunday,
4 December
Second Sunday
of Advent**

Lord, as we remember Nicholas Ferrar, Founder of the Little Gidding community, we pray for all who are seeking to found and grow new monastic communities with a prayerful rhythm of life. We pray especially for the tiny Sanctuary Garden community in Keynsham.

**Monday,
5 December**

On this International Volunteer Day, God, we thank you for all who give their time and talents for the benefit of their communities, praying especially for the those who do so in response to your immense love for them and for those they serve.

**Tuesday,
6 December**

Lord of all, as Bishop's Staff meets today, we ask you to bless them in their discussions and decisions, so that people across our diocese may grow in love and faith.

**Wednesday,
7 December**

God, our Father, we pray for Readers' Council as it meets today and we give thanks for the many and varied ministries of Readers across Bath and Wells.

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**Thursday,
8 December**

Lord Jesus, thank you for all the opportunities to share the amazing story of your birth this month. We pray for the school groups in Taunton Deanery visiting a local farm for the Christmas Experience this week.

**Friday,
9 December**

Lord, we pray for all serving in governments across the world. Help them to hold to the highest standards of integrity, resist any temptation to misuse their power, and fight against all forms of corruption and exploitation.

**Saturday,
10 December**

God, Creator and Father of all, on Human Rights Day we pray that the rights of all your people may be respected and celebrated. We pray that each of us will play our part to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with you and with others.

**Sunday,
11 December
Third Sunday of
Advent**

Jesus, son of Mary, we pray for those looking ahead to Christmas with anxiety and fear: worried about finances, relationships and so much more. Comfort them with the angel's message 'Do not be afraid' and help us all to find hope in you, the greatest gift of all.

**Monday,
12 December**

Today, on Postal Workers Day, we pray for all postal workers and their service to our communities. Bless them in these times of challenge and change: may they find peace and joy as they help us to communicate with others.

**Tuesday,
13 December**

Loving God, we pray for all those who live and work in Exmoor Deanery and for those responsible for leading the deanery, as they seek to offer a Christian presence in every community and discern the best solution to the placement of stipendiary clergy.

**Wednesday,
14 December**

God of Justice, we pray for the police in Avon and Somerset and for all who maintain law and justice in our communities and care for the most vulnerable.

**Thursday,
15 December**

Loving God, we pray for all those who live and work in Taunton Deanery and for those who serve the deanery as they seek to offer and discover your presence in every community.

**Friday,
16 December**

Lord of life, as schools and colleges break up for the holidays we pray for children and young people, teachers, parents and carers across our diocese. May they know something of your love and peace this Christmas time.

**Saturday,
17 December**

God of calling, we pray for all discerning a vocation to serve and lead within your church and to live out their everyday faith wherever they are. We give thanks for all who accompany those on the journey of discernment.

**Sunday,
18 December
Fourth Sunday
of Advent**

Jesus, who started life as a refugee, on this International Migrants Day, we pray for all who are far from home or seeking sanctuary. Help us to treat migrants with love and respect and to work for a more just world where all may earn a living and rest in safety.

**Monday,
19 December**

God without time, we pray for Readers, preachers and all those leading special Christmas services this week. May they tell the old familiar story in ways that help people understand the true meaning of Christmas.

**Tuesday,
20 December**

Joyful God, we give thanks for bellringers across our diocese as they ring out their call to worship over this season of Christmas. We give thanks for their dedication and pray that all who hear the bells will be filled anew with hope.

**Wednesday,
21 December**

Compassionate God, we pray for chaplains as they listen, care, pray and bless within their communities. We pray that they will find ways to be there with those who need them most and, in doing so, live and share your love.

**Thursday,
22 December**

God of healing, we pray for the health service, for GP surgeries, for community care, for hospitals and for hospices. We thank you for all who offer care and healing with such skill and dedication.

**Friday,
23 December**

God incarnate, we pray for essential workers in our shops and supermarkets. Thank you for all that they do, especially in preparation for Christmas. We pray that they may have times of rest and joy amidst the busyness.

**Saturday,
24 December**

God of love, we pray for all who are gathering for Christmas Services or with friends and families. We pray also for all who are lonely and fearful this Christmas. Wherever we are, however we are, we pray that your love may fill our lives, our churches and our communities.