

## Blackburn Prayers December 2024

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](#).

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 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](mailto: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**

### **Sunday 1 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**

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 continuing to grow our new discipleship app 'Fruitful' from the Making Disciples Team, which offers creative content that helps people grow in faith. Pray for the support group working together on technical support; ongoing content creation and communications/promotion.

**Diocese:** Rishton St Peter and St Paul, Rev Eddie Carr; also in this Benefice, Rishton St Peter and St Paul's CofE Primary School

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

## Monday 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' across the Diocese for whom giving is an integral part of discipleship.

**Diocese:** Salisbury St Peter, Rev Liz McLean, Mrs Janet Haworth (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Salisbury CofE Primary School

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Kitale – The Anglican Church of Kenya

**Meeting:** Vision and Strategy Group meeting

## Tuesday 3 December

Francis Xavier, missionary, 1552

**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:** Waddington, Rev Christopher Wood; also in this Benefice, Waddington and West Bradford CofE VA Primary School

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Kiteto – The Anglican Church of Tanzania

**Meeting:** Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel meeting

**Clergy Moves:** Rev Matt Guilder, Interim Chaplain of University of Lancaster

## Wednesday 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**

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 give thanks for the new funding for children's, families and youth workers and also lay pioneers under the SMMI grant – we ask that people would already be sensing a call to these key areas of ministry such that parishes will be able to appoint gifted and energised individuals to these posts in due course.

**Diocese:** West Pendleside, Rev Jonathan Carmyllie, Rev Rachel Frost, Ms Lynne Smith (IIm); also in this Benefice, Whalley CofE Primary School

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Kitgum – The Church of the Province of Uganda

**Clergy Moves:** Rev Amy Bland, Chaplain of Hospital of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust

## Thursday 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**

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.

**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 expansion of the Diocesan Renewal Programme that has been enabled by SMMI funding, that those parishes participating would see growth in prayer, a deepening of discipleship and increasing numbers of new people coming to faith.

**Diocese:** Whalley Abbey, Rev Anna Walker

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Kitui – The Anglican Church of Kenya

**Clergy Moves:** Rev Martin McDonald, Lead Chaplain of Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust; Rev Deacon Rachel Fielding, Chaplain of East Lancashire Hospitals Trust

**Friday 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:** Accrington Deanery Officers, Rev Canon David Arnold, Mrs Denise Taylor, Mrs Wendy Papworth, Mrs Gwen Greenwood

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Kivu – Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda

**Saturday 7 December**  
Ambrose, bishop, teacher of the faith,  
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**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 our Advent and Christmas programme that the gospel will be proclaimed. Also pray for all our preparation and organisation as we put on special events to celebrate, but also to give an opportunity for new people to attend our church.

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

**Diocese:** Accrington Christ Church and St James, Rev Paul McNally, Mr Mick Whittaker (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Accrington Green Haworth CofE Primary School

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

**Sunday 8 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**

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 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. And we also pray for the Rev Mary Ashton in her role as Warden of Spiritual Directors.

**Diocese:** Accrington St Andrew, St Mary Magdalen and St Peter and Church Kirk, Rev Canon David Arnold; also in this Benefice, Accrington St Mary Magdalen's CofE Primary School, Accrington St Peter's CofE Primary School, Church St Nicholas CofE Primary School, Accrington St Christopher's CofE High School

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan

**Clergy Moves:** Rev Nick Murray, Vicar of Barrowford St Thomas and Newchurch-in-Pendle St Mary

**Monday 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**

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.

**Mission Partners:** "Pray for the connections L. is making both in the country and internationally to work together with others to improve special educational needs provision systematically within the country where we serve," write mission partners A. and L. in southeast Asia. L. works in education and A. is working to help people overcome addictions.

**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:** Accrington St John with Huncoat St Augustine, Rev Hugh Scriven, Mrs Christine Ritson (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Accrington St John with St Augustine CofE Primary School

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Kobe – The Nippon Sei Ko Kai

**Meeting:** Leadership Core Group meeting

## Tuesday 10 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**

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

**Diocese:** Altham with Clayton-le-Moors, Rev Toby Webber, Rev Victor Sohail; also in this Benefice, Altham St James' CofE Primary School, Clayton-le-Moors All Saints CofE Primary School

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

## Wednesday 11 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 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:** Baxenden St John and Accrington St Paul, Rev Amanda Marshall, Mr Tony Hindle (IIm), Dr Patricia Wilkinson (IIm); also in this Benefice, Accrington Benjamin Hargreaves CofE Primary School, Baxenden St John's CofE Primary School

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

**Meeting:** Diocesan Advisory Committee meeting

## Thursday 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 the season of Advent and Christmas we pray that M:Power students and the ministry on the Roman Road estate and Over Darwen would be an enthusiastic witness and see people exploring 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:** Haslingden St James with Grane St Stephen and Stonefold St John (in plurality with) Musbury St Thomas, Vacant, Rev Judith Balkwell, Rev Simon Lloyd, Mr Gary Taylor (cw), Mrs Mariam Taylor (cw), Mrs Kaye Ridings (cw), Mr Brynley Dixon (cw), Mrs Heather Bickford (cw), Ms Sue Langridge (cw); also in this Benefice, Haslingden St James' CofE Primary School, Haslingden Stonefold St John's CofE Primary School

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Kollam – Kottarakkara – The Church of South India (United)

**Meeting:** Strategic Programme Board meeting

## Friday 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:** Laneside St Peter, Vacant, Mrs Denise Taylor (cw), Mrs Michelle Smith (cw)

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Kondoia – The Anglican Church of Tanzania

## Saturday 14 December

John the Cross, poet, teacher of the faith, 1591  
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:** 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:** Oswaldtwistle, Vacant, Rev Carole Garner, Mrs Judith Addison (Ilm), Mrs Heather Aspbury (Ilm), Mrs Betty Hartley (cw), Mr Andrew Leecy (cw), Mrs Wendy Hope (cw), Mrs Sonia Marshall (cw), Mr Stuart Kearney (cw), Mr Clive Yates (cw); also in this Benefice, Oswaldtwistle St Andrew's CofE Primary School, Oswaldtwistle St Paul's CofE Primary School, Oswaldtwistle Hippings Methodist School

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

**Sunday 15 December**  
**Third 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: 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:** Blackburn with Darwen Deanery Officers, Rev Canon Andrew Horsfall, Mrs Kathryn Adnitt, Mrs Elaine Williams.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Anglican Church of Tanzania

**Monday 16 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 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:** Blackburn Christ Church with St Matthew; Blackburn St Andrew Livesey, 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 Kongor – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

**Meeting:** Bishop's Appointments Team meeting



## Tuesday 17 December

### O Sapientia

Eglantyne Jebb, social reformer,  
founder of 'Save the Children' 1928

**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:** Blackburn St Aidan, Rev Alice Cole; also in this Benefice, Blackburn Mill Hill St Aidan's Primary School. A CofE Academy

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

## Wednesday 18 December

### O Adonai

**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:** 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 Kootenay – The Anglican Church of Canada

## Thursday 19 December

### O Radix Jesse

**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:** Blackburn St Luke's, Rev Jason Gardner, Rev Alan Gault; also in this Benefice, Blackburn St Barnabas and St Paul's CofE Primary School, Blackburn St Luke's and St Philip's Primary School. A CofE Academy.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Eastern Kowloon – Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

**Friday 20 December**  
**O Clavis David**

**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:** Blackburn St Mary the Virgin with St Paul (Cathedral and Parish Church), Very Rev Peter Howell-Jones, Rev Canon James Lawrence, Rev Canon Dr Jenny Gaffin

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Western Kowloon – Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

**Saturday 21 December**  
**O Oriens**

**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:** Blackburn St Silas, Rev Paul Payton; also in this Benefice, Blackburn St Silas CofE Primary School, Blackburn Wensley Fold CofE Primary Academy

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Krishna-Godavari – The Church of South India (United)

**Sunday 22 December**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**O Rex Gentium**

**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:** Blackburn St Stephen and St James, Vacant, Rev Peter Dillon, Mrs Janet Chester (cw), Mr Bill Berry (cw), Mrs Joan Bolton (cw); also in this Benefice, Blackburn St Stephen's CofE Primary School, Blackburn St James' CofE Primary School

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Church of the Province of Uganda

**Monday 23 December**  
**O Emmanuel**

**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 rest for 'Graham and Fiona' as they transition and settle back in the UK after spending 30 years working in a least-reached part of Africa.

**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:** Blackburn The Redeemer, Rev Christopher Anderton, Rev James Lapping, Mr Philip Beresford (IIm); also in this Benefice, Blackburn The Redeemer CofE Primary School

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

**Tuesday 24 December**  
**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:** 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 Kuching – Church of the Province of South East Asia

**Wednesday 25 December**  
**Christmas Day**  
**Christmas Night**

**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 leaders of Christian youth work and those supporting and training them, that churches across the diocese will grow in confidence to enable and grow new youth ministries and draw young people to know and love Jesus.

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

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

**Thursday 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 places 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:** Feniscowles Immanuel and Feniscliffe St Francis, Rev Bryn Naylor; also in this Benefice, Livesey St Francis CofE Primary School

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Kumi – The Church of the Province of Uganda

**Friday 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:** Hoddlesden St Paul and Darwen St Barnabas, Rev Ben Marston, Rev Matt Gaze, Mr Kenneth Lee (IIm), Mrs Margaret Walsh (IIm); also in this Benefice, Darwen St Barnabas Primary School. A CofE Academy. Hoddlesden St Paul's CofE Primary School

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Kurunegala – The Church of Ceylon (Extra Provincial)

**Saturday 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".

**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:** Knuzden St Oswald, Vacant, Mrs Cheryl Lavery (PCC), Mrs Carol Ratcliffe (PCC), Ms Julie Smith (Synod); also in this Benefice, Knuzden St Oswald's CofE Primary School

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Kushtia – The Church of Bangladesh

**Sunday 29 December**  
**First Sunday of Christmas**

**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:** Lower Darwen St James (in plurality with) Over Darwen St James, Rev Rebecca Roberts, Rev Cathy Malins, Miss Susan Lloyd (IIm); also in this Benefice, Lower Darwen St James' CofE Primary School

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Episcopal Church

**Monday 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:** Over Darwen St James (in plurality with) Lower Darwen St James, Rev Rebecca Roberts, Rev Kevin Colyer, Mrs Valerie Lucas (IIm); also in this Benefice, Darwen St James' Primary School. A CofE Academy.

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

**Tuesday 31 December**  
John Wyclif, reformer, 1384

**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 Choral Directors 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:** The Royal Blackburn Hospital, Rev Canon Andrew Horsfall, Rev David Anderson, Rev Joanne Macholc, Rev Deacon Rachel Fielding

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