



DIOCESE OF
Bath & Wells

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Monthly Prayer Diary South Somerset Deanery 2021

Dear Members of Somerset South Deanery,

Crewkerne and Ilminster Deaneries are now united under a new name, and we look forward to sharing the journey ahead as the Church continues to take on the challenges of being a witness to the unchanging love of God in Jesus Christ. We turn to God for help and strength in our essential daily prayers, being rooted and grounded in God's love.

Thank you for joining us in united prayer as we remember that we belong not only to one of the 53 parishes and a benefice, but also to the wider deanery. We hope that this monthly prayer diary will be helpful to you and will strengthen a sense of the Deanery as a worshipping community.

As prayer diaries need updating, we hope that you will keep an eye on the website (<https://www.ilminsterdeanery.uk>) and the Facebook page for the latest news, but there is a lot to be said for a real paper copy when we turn to prayer, and we will re-issue this diary as time goes by. The entries below are not in order of importance.

‘Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, ... being joyful always and praying continually.’ (*Hebrews 10:23-24 & 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-17*)

So, with many thanks to you as you light your candle, settle on your knees or your seat, alone or in company – let us pray.

Revd Judith Abbott, November 2021

1. The Deanery leadership team: Jim Webb (Lay Dean), Diana Brown (Assistant Lay Dean) Revds Ann Kember (Area Dean), Jo Stobart (Assistant Area Dean); Deanery Synod Representatives and members of the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Group (DMPG); for discernment and vision in planning for the growth and flourishing of all the Churches in the Deanery, and for encouragement in challenging times.
2. We give thanks for the many lay people who initiate mission projects, run groups for adults and children, give pastoral care, commit to prayer, lead worship, care for buildings, tend churchyards, offer hospitality, for blessing and strength in all their activities and for new lay vocations.

3. Blackdown Benefice: Buckland St Mary with Birchwood, Churchstanton, Corfe, Otterford, Pitminster. Revds Jim Fallon and Nick Jerrett. Reader: Nick Lewis.
4. For the work of the Holy Spirit in stirring hearts and raising new lay Church leaders from our congregations and communities; discernment in identifying gifts; readiness to explore new opportunities; Jon Mayled as he manages the Deanery Website and Facebook page, and Deanery Mission Priest Deborah Perreau; the members of other Church denominations across the Deanery, with thanks for the faith and mission we share with them in Christ.
5. South Petherton Benefice: South Petherton with the Lambrooks & the Seavingtons. Revd Tracey Hallett in her new appointment as Rector; Reader Geoff Abery.
6. The Creation: giving thanks for the beauty of our natural environment; for relief for victims of global adverse climate change; political willingness to reduce harmful emissions; technological innovation in producing clean energy; action in our Diocese and Deanery to become carbon neutral, and Deanery ecology advisors Jonathan Farey and Julian Brooks. For local farmers and related businesses.
7. Seven Sowers Benefice: Beercrocombe, Curry Mallet, Hatch Beauchamp, Orchard Portman, Staple Fitzpaine, Stoke St Mary with Thurlbear, West Hatch. Revds Joanna Porter and Stephen Jones. Reader: Sue McKen.
8. Bishop Ruth during the Vacancy in See, and for the appointment of a Diocesan Bishop; Archdeacon Simon Hill; our Deanery Accompanier Gary Watson, and the staff working at Flourish House in Wells. For wisdom in all decisions and joy in discerning the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
9. Merriott Benefice: Dinnington, Hinton St George, Lopen, Merriott. Revds Bob and Julia Hicks; Readers Derek Esp and Isabel Welsh.
10. PTO priests in all parishes, with thanks for their wisdom of experience; our clergy retirement officer Revd Ian Gibson, widows and widowers; Ordinand Lucy Blows (Ilminster) in the challenges of learning and training; and for others to discern a call to ordained ministry.
11. Prayers of thanks for Godparents and Godchildren, and for all who teach, inspire and guide us as disciples of Jesus Christ.
12. Isle Valley Benefice: Ashill, Broadway, Donyatt, Hambridge with Earnshill, Horton, Ilton, Isle Abbots, Isle Brewers. Revds Phil Denison, Tim Gibson and Philip Albrow (Curate). Reader: Greg Hoare.
13. Church buildings: with thanks for all who strive to maintain their beauty and historic importance in each community, and as places of refuge and peace for visitors; seeking guidance to know how best the living Church members may worship in and outside church buildings in the work of sharing faith and hope in our communities.

14. Winsmoor Benefice: Barrington, Chillington, Cudworth, Dowlish Wake, Kingstone, Puckington, Shepton Beauchamp, Stocklinch. Revd Geoff Wade; Readers Jayne Hinds and Michael Hawkins.
15. Residential and Care Homes in Chard, Churchinford, Crewkerne, Hambridge, Hatch Beauchamp, Horton Cross, Ilminster and Merriott, for the happiness and safety of residents and the strength and grace of staff and visitors.
16. For peace and rest. Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (*Matthew 11: 28-30*)
17. Ilminster and Whitelackington Benefice: Revds Jo Stobart and Judith Swan (Curate); Reader: Claire Duncan. Church of the Good Shepherd, Furnham, Chard, in Interregnum: Churchwardens, Alison Cruickshank and David Davies. Cricket St Thomas: Canon Hugh Williams
18. NHS and keyworkers in our communities especially under great pressure, and with thanks for the provision of excellent ongoing healthcare in times of crisis and pain through hospitals, surgeries and dentists.
19. Worship and missional faith in churches, homegroups, Mothers' Union, schools, Messy Church, children's groups, and all new initiatives. We thank God for the religious freedom we enjoy and ask for courage and vision for sharing faith in new ways to meet our neighbours in the realities of their lives.
20. Good relationships and friendships in the Church and community; for Christ-like living in love and faith in matters of gender, sexuality and race, for healing in any who have been hurt or rejected, and for prayerful consideration of the Living in Love and Faith report.
21. Churchwardens and PCC members, in gratitude for all their generosity in service, for blessings and reward, and for patience and perseverance when responsibilities weigh heavy; Parish Treasurers and Deanery Treasurer Geoff Lucas in difficult economic times; Benefice Administrators.
22. Chard St Mary's and Cloverleaf Villages Benefice: Chard St Mary's, Combe St Nicholas and Ham, Wambrook, Whitestaunton. Revds Ann Kember, Georgina Vye and John Rollings (Curate). Readers: Ruth Rogers and Charles Sparey.
23. Young people, in the towns of Chard and Ilminster and in all villages, and for Tom Tame (Youth Pioneer) in his connections with many who may have no other contact with Christian faith and hope; for protection against all that threatens to harm young people.
24. Wulfric Benefice: Crewkerne with Hewish, Haselbury Plucknett, Misterton, North Perrott, Wayford. Revd Christopher Davies in his new appointment as Rector. Reader: Hilda Bucknell.

25. For all who suffer economic hardship, homelessness or unemployment; Food Banks and Food Share; for each Church to find further meaningful ways to support families and individuals.
26. Family life in all generations, giving thanks for good relationships; children or adults who suffer misery or abuse at home; the lonely and housebound; the work of the Chard Hidden Voices group in counteracting modern day slavery.
27. Two Shires Benefice: Chaffcombe, Cricket Malherbie, Tatworth, Thorncombe, Winsham. Revds Philip & Michelle Butcher and Judith Abbott. Readers: Mary Dewar and Diana Kershaw.
28. Children across the Deanery and the schools they attend; the mission of Primary Church schools in Ashlands, Buckland St Mary, Combe St Nicholas, Crewkerne St Bartholomew's, Curry Mallet, Greenfylde Ilminster, Haselbury Plucknett, Hatch Beauchamp, Hewish, Ilton, Shepton Beauchamp, Thorncombe, Thurlbear, Winsham, and Wadham Secondary School in Crewkerne.
29. All who suffer with mental illness and anxiety or loneliness, asking for the right kind of professional help where needed and for the healing love of God through friendships, faith and community support.
30. We give thanks for the saints of every age, the world-wide Christian Church and for our local brothers and sisters in other denominations in the Deanery. Together we are the Body of Christ and we pray for health, and united worship and Christian service.
31. Jesus, Son of the living God, we bring ourselves in our weaknesses and in the great goodness of the love you have poured into our lives. May we grow in faith and in all things seek your presence and your kindness. Amen.

