

### January Benefice Prayer Diary

Wednesday 1	As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends. Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways, in the way of Jesus.
Thursday 2	Father God, We pray for The Thameshead Benefice; that we may be truly united as we come together, whatever our background or culture, to worship you sharing our common belief and trust in You. We pray for peace, respect and unity as we seek to see Christ in each other, inspiring and encouraging each individual to express their love for You. May our churches be places of peace and safety, joy and love and full of your glory. Help us to share responsibility, grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need, reach out to others, and welcome newcomers and visitors. Fill us with vision and joy and keep us faithful in prayer, word and worship and help us to know and share how much each of us are loved by You. May we see your kingdom come here in the Thameshead Benefice, to the glory of your name. Father God, as we continue in vacancy, sustain those in interim leadership; give wisdom to those involved in the process of appointing a new priest; and guide us all in working out the future of The Thameshead Benefice.
Friday 3	Today we remember the people who live and work in Somerford Keynes and Shorncote. We ask you to bless them in their work and play. We pray for those who are going through difficulties at present. We pray that we might all be channels of peace and blessing in our communities.
Saturday 4	Pray for our ministry team - Pepita, PTO; Karen and Liz, Lay Readers; David and Angie and all the Lay worship leaders; our Church Wardens and PCCs. Lord, may Your favour rest upon them and establish the work of their hands. Fill them with all joy and peace as they trust in You, so that they may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit
Sunday 5	Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Monday 6	We pray for our schools, especially Sapperton, Kemble, Rodmarton, Deer Park and Kingshill Schools. We pray for wisdom and openness to learning new things for staff, students and governors.
Tuesday 7	Heavenly Father, We lift up to You our prayers for economic stability and all those seeking employment. Grant wisdom and guidance to those in positions of economic influence, including those in our new government, that they may create opportunities for growth and prosperity. Comfort and support those who are searching for work, providing them with hope, perseverance, and the means to sustain themselves and their families. May they find meaningful employment and experience Your provision in their lives.
Wednesday 8	We pray for on our electoral rolls and the members of our congregations; that they may know God's presence, peace and unending love today and always. Almighty God, you delight in growth, Fill us with your Holy Spirit, So that our churches may grow spiritually and in numbers. Give us confidence to reach out to others so that the communities in which we live and work may know the power of your transforming love. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen
Thursday 9	Let us pray today for any who are unwell at this time, those in hospital and those waiting for appointments, treatment or surgery. Pray for God to bring healing and comfort. We pray for all who are housebound, and pray that any contact from friends, neighbours and church will continue so that they know they are not alone.
Friday 10	Today we remember the people who live and work in Coates. We ask you to bless them in their work and play. We pray for those who are going through difficulties at present. We pray that we might all be channels of peace and blessing in our communities.
Saturday 11	We pray for all home groups, Bible study and prayer groups and TLC. May they form a firm fellowship with each other, supporting each other and learn to seek and share God in new ways.
Sunday 12	Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Monday 13	God of hope and transformation, who in our Lord Jesus Christ offers the gift of life in all its fullness, send your Holy Spirit and grant us joy in our following and vision in our leadership. May we be rich in imagination, confident in faith, and courageous in our engagement with the people and places of this diocese. As we share your life with the world, keep us rooted and grounded in love as we bear witness to your glory and pray for your Kingdom to come. Amen.
Tuesday 14	Today we remember the people who live and work in Frampton Mansell and Sapperton. We ask you to bless them in their work and play. We pray for those who are going through difficulties at present. We pray that we might all be channels of peace and blessing in our communities.
Wednesday 15	Lord God, we thank you for all the places we can find you in our communities. Help us to remember that Jesus came to transform the world, and we all have a role to play in that.
Thursday 16	Today we remember the people who live and work in Poole Keynes. We ask you to bless them in their work and play. We pray for those who are going through difficulties at present. We pray that we might all be channels of peace and blessing in our communities.
Friday 17	We pray for all our volunteers in our church families (cleaners, flower arrangers, grounds people, organists and bell ringers) and pray that more people will join them, even if just for a short time.
Saturday 18	We pray for peace in the world, an end to conflicts, and places where people can live in peace with their neighbour. We pray for all those living in war torn countries and unable to escape. Lord, help them find a safe place to go, and we give thanks for all those trying to help and bring hope.
Sunday 19	Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord
Monday 20	Heavenly Father, We lift up new believers and seekers to You, asking for Your guidance and protection as they begin their spiritual journey. Surround them with Your love, strengthen their faith, and fill them with the knowledge of Your truth. May they find joy and peace in Your presence, and may their hearts be open to the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. We pray for all who do not yet know the love of God. We pray that the Lord will open their minds to the Gospel and remove their spiritual blindness and that they will come to know God's transforming love.
Tuesday 21	Let us pray for an end to the waste and desecration of God's creation; for access to the fruits of creation to be shared equally among all people and for communities and nations to find sustenance in the fruits of the earth and water God has given us.
Wednesday 22	Jesus' prayer for his disciples was that "they may be one so that the world may believe" We pray for unity with all Christian Disciples. Let us come together to share in the glory of your name.
Thursday 23	Pray for our Farming communities and all who provide food for us to eat; Bless them as they sow crops and care for livestock. Surround them with your love so they may know they are cared for and valued. Help us to be thankful for the food they produce and not to waste it. Pray for those who do not have enough to eat and for the local Foodbank. We pray for people in our community and beyond who are facing unemployment, ill-health, isolation or money worries at this time, and especially for those who are unable to afford enough to eat.
Friday 24	Today we remember the people who live and work in Kemble and Ewen. We ask you to bless them in their work and play. We pray for those who are going through difficulties at present. We pray that we might all be channels of peace and blessing in our communities.
Saturday 25	As we seek to share hope and make new disciples, help us to look for ways in which we can demonstrate the difference that God's call has made on our own lives.
Sunday 26	God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.
Monday 27	We pray for our children and young people and their families; that they may feel a sense of family and belonging through the groups they attend. We pray for Luke and the work of Sportily and the new youth club, for Cadie and Little Fishes and Source Seekers, for Juliette and Liz and Wild and Messy Church and the Open the Book team. Lord, bless and guide the

	leaders and inspire more people to step forward and teach the next generation how to lead and love others in Your name. Strengthen and equip them to show Your love to the precious children in their communities.
Tuesday 28	Today we remember the people who live and work in Rodmarton and Tarlton. We ask you to bless them in their work and play. We pray for those who are going through difficulties at present. We pray that we might all be channels of peace and blessing in our communities.
Wednesday 29	At this time of the year, when it is cold or wet, pray for those who work outside and for those who keep our vital services going through the winter. Offer thanks for those who put comfort or health at risk to provide us with the things we need or want, and in the service of others.
Thursday 30	We pray for communication within the Thameshead Benefice, asking for God's wisdom and clarity to guide our words and actions and help us to listen with open hearts, speak with love and understanding, and foster unity and harmony among all.
Friday 31	Loving God, thank you for the many gifts that you give to us. Help us to share them generously and to give thanks for all that is offered by others during this time of vacancy.