

Prayers for January 2021

‘Praying for each other; praying with each other’

“Faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall emerge into the light....” Helen Keller

1. ***New Years Day.*** *Lord of the years, as we bear your light through thresholds of uncertainty, dispel the shadows and give us courage and wisdom.* We pray for all who live in Conghurst Lane, Ridsen, Foxhole Lane. In our Deanery, we pray for the parish of Headcorn and The Suttons, and the Vicar, Revd Fiona Haskett.
2. *God behind us – we have worshipped at your crib and we don’t go away empty-handed.* We remember in prayer today those who live in Cowden Lane and Horns Road.
3. *The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us.* We pray for the people living in Delmonden Lane, and North Hill Road, and remember the parishes of Etchingam and Hurst Green.
4. *I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness.* We pray for the ministry in and from the St Laurence Parish Office. We pray for all living in Red Oak and Hensil Lane.
5. *God around us – we thank you for each other and seek your Spirit’s help in discerning the way ahead.* Bless all the doctors, nurses and staff who work at Benenden Hospital and the Hawkhurst Cottage Hospital. We pray for families who live on The Moor and in The Chestnuts.
6. ***EPIPHANY.*** *Loving God, the Magi were guided by the star to where the infant Jesus lay. Guide us by the light of Your love to walk pathways of peaceful discovery and make journeys beyond the boundaries of our expectations. Amen.* We pray for all shops and businesses in the High Street and in our village. We pray for all living on Horns Corner and Horns Hill.
7. *God who bends the knee – reveal our prejudices and illumine our blind-spots; may we notice your light in our local communities.* We pray for all living on Moor Hill, Talbot Road and The Hawthorns; Stream Lane and Hastings Road. Bless and guide the Queen and all members of the Royal family.
8. *God who fans the flame – help us nurture sparks of mission, ignited through these months of pandemic.* We remember all living in All Saints Road, Smugglers, Smugglers Mews and Dickens Way.
9. *God before us – help us not to turn aside from painful conversations and uncomfortable decisions; give us courage to keep walking forward together.* We pray for the parishioners of Trinity Church, Sissinghurst and with St Mary’s Frittenden and the Vicar, Revd. Pete Deaves.

10. **BAPTISM OF CHRIST.** *Baptised into Christ, may we who bear His likeness ever show forth His love, giving glory to you in new eternal life. Amen* We pray for the families living in Barretts Road and Heartenoak Road.
11. *All of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death. For if we have been united with him in a death like His, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like His.* We pray for all who live in Tongswood Drive and Whites Lane and for the parish of Goudhurst and Kilndown, as they welcome the new Vicar Revd. Rachel Robertson and family.
12. *When you pass through the waters I will be with you. And through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you.* We pray for all who live in Cranbrook Road and Sandrock Cottages. We pray for the parish of Cranbrook and the Vicar Revd Ann Pollington.
13. *God within us – here we are; shock us again into knowing that we really bear the Light of Light.* We pray for all who worship in the Parish of Marden and the Vicar, Revd. Nicola Harvey. Bless and guide those living in Fairview and Northgrove Road.
14. *Your light has shone in the darkness O Lord, reshape us as we seek to comprehend it. Inspire in us a new spirit of sacrifice as we are called upon to let go into all that is new.* We pray for all members of the Methodist Fellowship in Hawkhurst. We pray for those living in Gills Green and Wellington Cottages, Tubs Lake and those living in Bedgebury.
15. *Children and Youth Work in our Parishes have been greatly impacted by Covid. We pray for Sunday school Teachers and Youth Leaders and Youth Pastors.* We pray for all who worship and serve in the Roman Catholic Church of St Barnabas and for Father Vic McClean. Bless those living in Gingerbread Lane and The High Street.
16. *Music is a feature of parish worship. We give thanks for small groups of singers and socially distanced choirs that have recently begun singing at services.* We pray for those living in Gunther Court, Hartnokes and Basden Cottages, and also for the parishes of Ticehurst and Flimwell and the Vicar Rev Ashley Evans.
17. *Lord, help us to welcome your light wherever we find it; help us to carry your light wherever we go.* We pray for all who worship in the Baptist Church in our village, and for the Minister Revd. Ben Gotts and his family. We pray for those who live in Copthall Avenue, Fieldways and Church Walk.
18. *We give thanks for all the virtual services that continue alongside in person worship, enabling the Church of God to gather week by week. We pray for lay people and clergy alike, for their capacity and well being.* We pray for all who live in Mercers, Lorenden Park and Highgate Hill, and Herschel Place
19. *We pray for our communities, for businesses affected by the restrictions, for those finding life a real struggle for whatever reason, during this Pandemic.* We pray for all those living in Murton-Neale Close and Camerons. We also pray for all living in Oakfield and Theobalds.
20. *We pray for all those exercising Chaplaincy Ministry - formally and informally - within Schools, uniformed organisations, residential care communities, community clubs, businesses, health care groups, prisons, police, armed services and in sport.*

We pray for all living on Slip-mill Lane, Slipmill Road and Sobers Lane. Pray for the parishes of Ewhurst and Bodiam and the Rector Canon Christopher Irvine.

21. *O Lord, we can only have peace in you, enfold us in your loving arms.* We pray for all living in the area of Queens Road, Park Cottages and Dunlop Court.
22. *We continue to pray and give thanks for everyone who is supplying food and essential goods to society at large and our local community.* We pray for those who live in Copt-hall Avenue, Fieldways and Church Walk.
23. *We continue to pray for all who have tested positive with COVID 19 and for everyone who is self-isolating or in quarantine. We pray for their families and loved ones who are concerned for them.* We pray for all living in Queens Close and Hammonds.
24. *Let us be eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.* We pray for the parish of Staplehurst, and the Vicar Revd Silka Tezlaff. We bring to you in our prayers today, all living in Western Road and School Terrace, Rye Road and Highfield Close.
25. *We pray for Headteachers, Teachers, young people and children - for the fear and uncertain future of schools, colleges and universities of staying open or not, that God, our loving Father, will watch over, protect and bless them.* We pray also for all living in Oaklands Road and Tates.
26. *Lord, our God, you know the spoken and unspoken thoughts of our hearts. Be with us during this time of need.* We pray for all living in Winchester Road, Woodbury Road and Vale Road.
27. *Father God, give health, healing, courage, support and compassion to all who need your love as we make our prayers to you.* We keep in prayer those living in, Ockley Road, Barretts Green and Norris Close.
28. *Lord God, help us let go of ourselves so that You may speak through us to another.* We pray for the Revd. David Commander, Rector of the Benefice of Benenden and Sandhurst, Ylva Blid-Mackenzie, the Licensed Lay Worker and all the parishioners. We pray for all living in Attwater Lane and Potters Lane.
29. *Guiding God, as this month unfolds, inspire us with fresh insights, challenge us with new experiences and reassure us that Your love never changes.* We pray today for all living in Herschel Place, Woodham Close, Birchfield Grove and all new homes in our village. We keep in prayer the residents of Water Lane and Gun Green.
30. We pray for our Vicar and Area Dean, Fr Rodney Dreyer and his family. We also pray for our Churchwardens, and all the members of our PCC. We remember all the members of our fellowship who live outside the parish.
31. We pray for Justin Welby, our Archbishop, Right Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin, the Bishop of Dover and Stephen Archdeacon and Chaplain to Bishop Rose, Andrew Sewell Archdeacon of Maidstone. We pray for the work and ministry of the Anglican Consultative Council.

A New Year beckons. Let us hand over the past to God for His healing blessings. Let us ask the Lord to face the future with us, because we do not want to face it alone.