

## Prayers for January 2024

***For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. [Jer 29:11]***

1. ***The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus.*** *After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. [Lk 2:21].* 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. *Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishops, Teachers of the Faith, 379 and 389. Seraphim, Monk of Sarov, Spiritual Guide, 1833. Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, Bishop in South India, Evangelist, 1945. Anyone united with Christ is a new creation; the old self has passed away in its entirety; everything is made new. [2 Cor 5:17].* We remember in prayer today those who live in Cowden Lane and Horns Road.
3. *Sovereign God, renew our faith, revive our hope, restore our trust, rekindle our vision, and so may we serve you in quiet confidence, this day and always.* We pray for the people living in Delmonden Lane, and North Hill Road, and remember the parishes of Etchingham and Hurst Green.
4. *'I trust in you, O Lord; I say, "You are my God." My times are in your hand.'* [Ps 31:14-15]. We pray for all living in Red Oak and Hensil Lane.
5. *Gracious God, give us a proper sense of our own worth, a true appreciation of the worth of others, and, above all, an understanding of your greatness.* 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.*** *'[Jesus] looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you'. [Jn 17:1].* We pray for all who work in the shops, pubs, restaurants and businesses in the High Street, and in our village. We pray for all living on Horns Corner and Horns Hill.
7. ***The Baptism of Christ, First Sunday of Epiphany.*** *'And the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' [Lk 3:22].* We pray for all living on Moor Hill, Talbot Road and The Hawthorns; Stream Lane and Hastings Road. Bless and guide the King and all members of the Royal family.
8. *'Let the light within you shine before others so that they may see the good deeds you do and give glory to your heavenly Father'* [Mt 5:16]. We remember in our prayers all living in All Saints Road, Smugglers, Smugglers Mews and Dickens Way.
9. *Sovereign God, teach me to trust in you even when I cannot see the way ahead. Help me to walk in faith, even when faith seems foolish.* We pray for the parishioners of Trinity Church, Sissinghurst and with St Mary's Frittenden and the Vicar, Revd. Pete Deaves.
10. *William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645. Most gracious Father, we pray to you for your holy Church. Fill it with all truth; in all truth with all peace. Where it is*

*corrupt, purge it. Where it is in error, direct it. Where anything is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen and defend it. Where it is in want, provide for it. Where it is divided, heal it and reunite it in your love; for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. We pray for the families living in Barretts Road and Hartenoak Road.*

11. *Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915. "Prayer is the greatest power God has put into our hands for service – praying is harder than doing, at least I find it so, but the dynamic lies that way to advance the Kingdom." [Mary Slessor] We pray for all who live in Tongswood Drive and Whites Lane and for the parish of Goudhurst and Kilndown, and the Vicar Revd. Rachel Robertson.*
12. *Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167. Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth, Scholar, 689. 'My God, You know what a fool I am. My weakness is not hidden from Your sight. Therefore, Lord, I ask You not for gold, I ask You not for silver, nor for jewels, but only that You would give me wisdom. [St Aelred of Rievaulx]. We pray for all who live in Cranbrook Road and Sandrock Cottages. We pray for the parish of Cranbrook and their Vicar Revd. Richard King.*
13. *Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher of the Faith, 367. Kentigern (Mungo), Missionary Bishop in Strathclyde and Cumbria, 603. George Fox, Founder of the Society of Friends (the Quakers), 1691. Father, keep us from vain strife of words. Grant to us constant profession of the Truth! Preserve us in a true and undefiled faith so that we may hold fast to that which we professed when we were baptized. [Hilary of Poitiers]. Bless and guide those living in Fairview and Northgrove Road. We pray for all who worship in the Parish of Marden and the Vicar, Revd. Nicola Harvey.*
14. *Second Sunday of Epiphany. 'I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name for ever and ever.' [Ps 145:1]. We pray for those living in Gills Green and Wellington Cottages, Tubs Lake and those living in Bedgebury. We pray for all members of the Methodist Fellowship in Hawkhurst.*
15. *'O the depths of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God; how unfathomable are his judgements and mysterious his ways.' [Rom 11:33]. We pray for all who worship and serve in the Roman Catholic Church of St Barnabas and for Father Ethelbert Ukpabi. Bless those living in Gingerbread Lane and The High Street.*
16. *'If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all' [Rom 12:18]. We pray for those living in Gunther Court, Hartenokes and Basden Cottages, and also for the parishes of Ticehurst and Flimwell during their interregnum.*
17. *Antony of Egypt, Hermit, Abbot, 356. Charles Gore, Bishop, Founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932. 'Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me"' [Mt 19:21]. We pray for those who live in Copthall Avenue, Fieldways and Church Walk. We pray for all who worship in the Baptist Church in our village, and for the Minister Revd. Ben Gotts and his family.*
18. *Beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Amy Carmichael, Founder of the Dohnavur Fellowship, spiritual writer, 1951. God of life, You have created us to have life, and life in all its fullness. Help your wounded Church to be a source of hope and healing. As we follow Jesus' way with determination, may we lead others to you. We*

*pray in Jesus' name. Amen. We pray for all who live in Mercers, Lorenden Park and Highgate Hill, and Herschel Place.*

19. *Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095. Lord, give us the grace to know you deeply, in order to love you entirely. May the gift of your Holy Spirit enable our eyes, ears and minds to receive the unconditional love with which you love us. Purify our hearts that we may always be ready to love our neighbour, however different, as ourselves. Through the self-giving life of Christ our Lord. Amen. We pray for all the schools in our village, for the Headteachers, Staff and pupils and in particular for the Hawkhurst Church of England Primary School and the Headteacher Jodi Hacker. We pray for all those living in Murton-Neale Close and Camerons. We also pray for all living in Oakfield and Theobalds.*
20. *Richard Rolle of Hampole, Spiritual Writer, 1349. God of love, who writes love in our hearts, instil in us the courage to look beyond ourselves and see the neighbour in those different from ourselves and to be the unexpected neighbour, that we may truly follow Jesus Christ – our brother and our friend, who is Lord, for ever and ever. Amen. 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. *Third Sunday of Epiphany. Agnes, Child Martyr at Rome, 304, 'His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." [Jn 2:5]. We pray for all living in the area of Queens Road, Park Cottages and Dunlop Court.*
22. *Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, first Martyr of Spain, 304. Gracious God, You who are the source of all love and goodness: enable us to recognise the needs of our neighbour. We pray today for those who live in Copthall Avenue, Fieldways and Church Walk.*
23. *God of unity, in Jesus, you showed us the meaning of hospitality, by caring for our fragile humanity. Help us to become a community that generously welcomes those who feel abandoned and lost, together building an inn where all are welcomed and loved. We pray for all living in Queens Close and Hammonds.*
24. *Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher of the Faith, 1622. Holy God, your Son Jesus Christ came among us to show us the way of compassion. Help us by your Spirit to follow his example, to serve the needs of all your children, and so witness together as Christians to your ways of love and mercy. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen. We bring to you in our prayers today, all living in Western Road and School Terrace, Rye Road and Highfield Close. We pray for the parish of Staplehurst, and the Vicar Revd Silke Tezlaff.*
25. **Conversion of Saint Paul.** *Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. We pray today for all who are alone this Christmas, for the homeless and those for whom Christmas is, for whatever reason, anything but joyful.*
26. *Timothy and Titus, Companions of Paul. 'But as for you, teach what is consistent with sound doctrine ... [showing] integrity, gravity and sound speech that cannot be censured.' [Titus 2: 1,8a]. We pray for all living in Oaklands Road and Tates. We pray for all living in Winchester Road, Woodbury Road and Vale Road.*

27. *Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds – his name is the Lord – be exultant before him. [Ps 68:4].* We keep in prayer those living in Ockley Road, Barretts Green and Norris Close.
28. *Fourth Sunday of Epiphany. Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1274. Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you.* We pray for all living in Attwater Lane and Potters Lane. We pray for Revd. David Commander, Rector of the Benefice of Benenden and Sandhurst, and Area Dean of the Weald Deanery and also for Revd. Ylva Blid-Mackenzie, the Assistant Priest and all the parishioners.
29. *If we confess our sins, he is just, and we can rely on him to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all evil. [1 John 1:9].* 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. *Charles, King and Martyr, 1649. ‘For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly.’ [1 Pet 2:19].* We pray for Justin Welby, our Archbishop, Right Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin, the Bishop of Dover and Stephen, Archdeacon and acting Diocesan Secretary, Andrew, Archdeacon of Maidstone. We pray for the work and ministry of the Anglican Consultative Council.
31. *John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888. Most Holy Virgin Mary ... I ask for your unceasing help for all who are now suffering. Help the weak, cure the sick, convert sinners. [John Bosco].* We pray for our Vicar, Canon 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.

***Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.  
When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.  
[Jer 29:12-13]***