

Prayers for January 2026

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. [Phil 4:6].

1. ***The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus.*** *This day is a new day that has never been before. This year is a new year, the opening door. Enter, Lord Christ – we have joy in Your coming. You have given us life; and we welcome Your coming. 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 during their interregnum.*
2. *Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishops, Teachers of the Faith, 379 and 389. When trouble strikes and fear takes root and dreams are dry and sense unsound, when hope becomes a barren waste, then doubts like mountains soar around. Our wandering minds believe the worst and ask, as faith and fervour fade, 'Has God now turned His back on us, forsaking those He loved and made?' God says, 'See how a woman cares, can she forget the child she bore? Even if she did, I shan't forget. Though feeling lost, I love you more.' We remember in prayer today those who live in Cowden Lane and Horns Road.*
3. *Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, Lord, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me. [Ps 27: 7-9]. We pray for the people living in Delmonden Lane, and North Hill Road, and remember the parish of Holy Trinity, Hurst Green during their interregnum.*
4. ***Second Sunday of Christmas.*** *To my Lord and my God, I give myself yet again, confidently, because He cares to have me and because my very breath is His. I will be what He wants, who knows all about it and has done everything that I might be His own – a living glory of gladness. [George MacDonald]. We pray for all living in Red Oak and Hensil Lane.*
5. *Therefore let us make the Covenant of God our own. Let us engage our heart to the Lord, and resolve in His strength never to go back!. We pray for all who worship and serve in the Roman Catholic Church of St Barnabas and Fr Ethelbert Ukpabi. We pray for families who live on The Moor and in The Chestnuts.*
6. ***The Epiphany.*** *The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and the obedience of the peoples is his. Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he washes his garments in wine and his robe in the blood of grapes; [Gen 49:10-11]. Bless and guide the King and all members of the Royal family. We pray for all living on Horns Corner and Horns Hill.*
7. *Give me a candle of the Spirit, O God, as I go down into the deeps of my being. Show me the hidden things, the creatures of my dreams, the storehouse of forgotten memories and hurts. Take me down to the spring of my life, and tell me my nature and my name. Give me freedom to grow, so that I may become that self, the seed of which You planted in me at my making. [George*

Appleton]. We pray for all living on Moor Hill, Talbot Road and The Hawthorns; Stream Lane and Hastings Road.

- 8 *He chose his servant David, and took him from the sheepfolds; from tending the nursing ewes he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob, of Israel, his inheritance. With upright heart he tended them, and guided them with skillful hand. [Ps 78:70-72].* We remember in our prayers all living in All Saints Road, Smugglers, Smugglers Mews and Dickens Way.

- 9 *I am not here to pass judgement or point the finger at anyone. My name was written in the sand as one who is forgiven. Strengthened with hope, impervious to shame, I will walk freely like the freshness of the dry lands after rain. Let light spill out of heaven through my life, dispelling mediocrity and silent blame. Too many people, guilt-stricken, wounded, walk in regret, feeling bad about failing, apologise even for breathing. Raw belief, a passion for others grows in me, encircling each moment with instinctive prayer. I will carry the freshness of the dry lands after rain. Compassion lives in me again. [Andy Raine].* We remember the parishioners of Trinity Church, Sissinghurst with St Mary's Frittenden during their interregnum.

10. *William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1645,*

*If you want your dream to be Take your time, go slowly
Do few things but do them well Heartfelt work grows purely
If you want to live life free Take your time, go slowly
Do few things but do them well Heartfelt work grows purely
Day by day, stone by stone Build your secret slowly
Day by day, you'll grow too You'll know heaven's glory
If you want to live life free Take your time, go slowly
If you want your dream to be Take your time, go slowly
['Little Church' (Donovan Leitch)]*

We remember today the Food 4 Families food bank in Hawkhurst, for the volunteers and for all those who need its services. We pray for the families living in Barretts Road and Hartenoak Road.

- 11 **First Sunday of Epiphany. Baptism of Christ.** *As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." [Matt 3:16-17].* We pray for all who live in Tongswood Drive and Whites Lane.

12. *Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167.*

God called forth a people, and we responded to His call, 'Rebuild this ancient ruin, restore my city walls.' He has led us day by day, as we listened to His voice, and we were fed on finest wheat, and manna from the skies. When we started, we were strangers. We hardly knew each other's names. Now we are brothers and sisters, and we will never be the same. As we built, brick by brick, we discovered the corner stone, and as we let Him mould and fashion us, He built us up in love. Now we have seen, and we have heard, that the Lord our God is great, for a wilderness has been transformed, into His holy place. [Gerry Tuohy].

We pray for all who work in and own shops, pubs, restaurants and businesses in the High Street, in our village. We pray for all who live in Cranbrook Road and Sandrook Cottages. We pray for the parish of Cranbrook and their Vicar Revd. Richard King.

13. *Kentigern (Mungo), Missionary Bishop in Strathclyde and Cumbria, 603. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves. [Ps 126:4-6].* Bless all the doctors, nurses and staff who work at Benenden Hospital and the Hawkhurst Community Hospital. We pray and give thanks for all who work in the emergency services. 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. *Ah God, You with the Maker's eye, can tell if all that's feared is real, and see if life is more than what we suffer, dread, despise and feel. If some by faith no longer stand nor hear the truth Your voice intones, stretch out Your hand to help Your folk from stumbling blocks to stepping stones.* We pray for those living in Gills Green and Wellington Cottages, Tubs Lake and those living in Bedgebury.

15. *When the work is done, when comes the day of the Refiner's fire, when they are purged like gold and silver to offer Me an offering in righteousness then shall the offering of My people in My holy place be pleasant unto Me, the Lord your God, as in the days of old, and as in former years: a place of peace, a dwelling-place for man and God.* We pray today for all ordinands and those in training for Licensed Lay Ministry. Bless those living in Gingerbread Lane, Woodham Close, Birchfield Grove and The High Street and for the parish of Goudhurst and Kilndown, and their Vicar, Revd. Rachel Robertson.

16. *He turns a desert into pools of water, a parched land into springs of water. And there he lets the hungry live, and they establish a town to live in; they sow fields, and plant vineyards, and get a fruitful yield. [Ps 107:35-37].* We pray for those living in Gunther Court, Hartnokes and Basden Cottages, and also for the parishes of Ticehurst and Flimwell and their vicar, the Revd. Canon Dr Jason Radcliff.

17. *Antony of Egypt, Hermit, Abbot, 356. Jesus stands on the shore and whistles for His people to respond, wave upon wave. He calls them to bind the broken-hearted, and build up waste places. [Bryan Pollard].* 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 their Minister, Revd. Ben Gotts and his family.

18. **Second Sunday of Epiphany. Start of the week of prayer for Christian Unity.** *God of light, you have called us out of darkness into your light. May our response to your call lead us to actively seek reconciliation and share your light in the world. Amen.* We pray for all who live in Mercers, Lorenden Park, Herschel Place and Highgate Hill.

19. *Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095.*
Lord Jesus Christ, you show us how to be patient with one another in humility and gentleness. May the light you have shined on our path lead us towards unity and help us heal the wounds of division and indifference that often break communities apart. Amen.
We pray today for all the schools in our village, in particular for Hawkhurst Church of England Primary School, the Headteacher Jodi Hacker, the staff, governors, volunteers, and parents as they finish for the Christmas break. 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.*
Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Prince of Peace. Strengthen the bond of peace among us and in our troubled world. Change the hearts of all who make war; touch the wounds of all who are afflicted by war. We pray especially for the people of Armenia and Artsakh, and their kindred throughout the world. Let the light of your love shine in all the dark places of our world and hasten the day when all peoples may dwell in peace with justice. Amen.
We pray for all living on Slipmill Lane, Slipmill Road and Sopers Lane. Pray for the parishes of Ewhurst and Bodiam during their interregnum.
21. *Agnes, Child Martyr at Rome, 304.*
Jesus Christ, you have brought us together in all our diversity as your family and church. In the face so many situations on earth where hope has given way to despair and wounded hearts, renew our hope in the Holy Spirit's work of changing the world. Move us to spread this hope to everyone everywhere. You are the true Light, who casts out the darkness of sin, and shines into our hearts the joy and hope of your eternal love. Amen.
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.*
Spirit of God, and true God, who descended on the river Jordan, and into the upper-room; who enlightened us by the baptism of the Holy Font, we have sinned against Heaven and before you, purify us again with your divine fire, as you did the Apostles with fiery tongues. Have mercy on Your creatures and especially on us. Amen.
We pray today for those who live in Copthall Avenue, Fieldways and Church Walk.
23. *We confess with faith and worship you, Loving Father, for you are in heaven beyond words, and on earth beyond understanding, through your Son, Jesus Christ. In your tender care, you are the beginning and fulfilment of everything. Glory forever to you, Father, with the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*
We pray for all living in Queens Close and Hammonds.
24. *Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher of the Faith, 1622.*
Lord Jesus Christ, by the action of the Holy Spirit in the one baptism, you have bestowed wonderful graces and multiple gifts upon us for the sake of building up your Body, the Church. Grant us now the willingness to fully appreciate the richness of their diversity and use them fully to further the spread of the Gospel. In your name we pray. Amen.
We bring to you in our prayers today, all living in Western Road and School Terrace, Rye Road and Highfield Close.
25. **Third Sunday of Epiphany. The Conversion of Paul.**
O Christ, True Light of the world, make my soul worthy to see the light of your glory with joy

on the day of my calling, and to rest with the hope of good things in the house of the righteous, until the day of your great coming. Have mercy upon your creation, and on me, a great sinner. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and always and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

We pray for all living in Oaklands Road and Tates. We pray for all living in Winchester Road, Woodbury Road and Vale Road.

26. ***Timothy and Titus, Companions of Paul.***

The pure in heart shall see God. The seeing of Him will be the sign that we are like Him, for only by being like Him can we see Him as He is. But when we shall be fit to look Him in the face, God only knows. That is the heart of my hopes by day and my dreams by night. To behold the face of Jesus seems to me the one thing to be desired. [George MacDonald].

We keep in prayer those living in Ockley Road, Barretts Green and Norris Close.

27. *The songs of prayer lodge in our mouths. Let us sing through the snow. At the dinner table. On the rooftop where we dance. May these sounds heal our ears and those distant ears that hear. [Hawksley Workman].*

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.

28. *Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1274.*

Let everything that has life, let everything that has breath give all the glory and honour and praise to the One who overcame death. Let every living thing sing of the mercies of our God. Let us exalt Him wherever we live with thanksgiving and joy in our hearts. [Lawrence Chewning]

We keep in prayer the residents of Water Lane and Gun Green.

29. *'Come to the edge', He said. They said, 'We are afraid'. 'Come to the edge', He said. They came. He pushed them, and they flew. [Guillaume Apollinaire].*

We pray today for all living in Herschel Place, Woodham Close, Birchfield Grove and all new homes in our village. We remember today all those in care in the village. We pray for the staff and residents of Bowles Lodge and Hawkhurst House.

30. *Charles, King and Martyr, 1649.*

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. [Ps 46:1-3].

We pray for Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury Elect, the Right Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover, Estella Last, Archdeacon designate and Iain Blythe the Diocesan Secretary. We pray for the work and ministry of the Anglican Consultative Council.

31. *John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888.*

The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be

glad. Lord, save us! Lord, grant us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you. [Ps 118:22-26].

We pray for our churchwardens, all members of our PCC and also for those members of our fellowship who live outside the parish.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. [Phil 4:7].

Readings taken from:

1. Northumbria Community, *The Celtic Daily Prayer*. HarperCollins Publishers.
2. 'Resources for THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY' Jointly prepared and published by the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity and the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches