

**10th December 2023**

**Prayer Letter**

* ***Lord of comfort and peace,***
* *we pray for all who are affected by the breakdown of family relationships, domestic abuse and divorce. Also, for those in addiction and those in mental or spiritual turmoil.*
* *we pray for all who are lonely and for all who are ill and those recovering from illness.*
* **We bring before you in our prayers:**

 ***Irene, Leah, Debbie, Stephen and Lisa, Ted, Alison, Norman and Jean, Anne and Ian, Joe and Sue, and all who we know personally who are suffering at this time in body, mind or spirit.***

* ***"The Lord bless you and keep you.***

***The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.***

***The Lord turn His face to you***

***and give you His peace."***

**Numbers 6: 24-26**

**2nd Sunday in Advent**



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## From the Blackburn Diocesan website:

## Praying with greater depth and urgency for the Kingdom of God to come

As one of the four focuses of the 'Making Disciples' area of [**Vision 2026**](https://www.blackburn.anglican.org/storage/general-files/shares/Vision%202026/Vision_2026_Implementation_Plan__2021_-_2024__MASTER_FV.pdf)**,** we want to help you to spend regular time in prayer.

**Why Pray?**

**As we all have different ways of talking with our friends, families, neighbours and colleagues, so we also have different ways of talking to our Heavenly Father. Wanting to pray is the beginning of a relationship with God that can grow and grow.**

Praying can be woven into everyday life. Prayer is not just something done in church. It is about praying with others, praying alone, at any time and any place. It is living life in a relationship with God.

**When we pray, there are millions of Christian people all around the world also praying; daily in churches, in their homes, in their cars, at work. You might not hear them. You might feel very alone in your prayer; but you are not alone.**

***Lord, hear us as we pray,***

* For the leaders of Churches across our nation and here in Lancashire for our Bishops Philip and Jill.
* For all the Clergy of our Church and their families**,** for our Vicar Dave, for L J and for David in his Associated Ministry with us. For Steve and Lisa, for their Ministry in our Church and in India.
* For Nicola our Church Warden in all she does in her role & in our community.
* For our LLM’s and ALM’s and those who have a ministry with the sick, the homeless and housebound.
* For Marlis in her missionary work overseas.
* For Denise in her forthcoming ministry in Urban Mission.
* For members of our Church who serve You, often in many often-unnoticed important ways, in our Church & amongst the people of our Parish and our town.

***Lord hear us as we pray***

**For our compassion for all refugees**, whose lives in their homelands have become intolerable and dangerous due to war, oppression, famine and climate change.

*O God, we pray for all the children of Abraham in Israel and Palestine and in every country of the world.
We pray for Muslims, Jews and Christians that we will draw on the best of our traditions to guide us away from words and acts of division and discrimination so that everyone may be free to live in safety.
Protect the vulnerable, strengthen the fearful and comfort the grieving.
In Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

**We pray for all Christians in many parts of our world who are at risk of persecution, torture and death for their faith in You Lord Jesus.**

We pray for the people and country of Ukraine, praying, O Lord, that You will bring about a lasting peace and that there may be a rebuilding of that nation.

We pray for all people around the world trying to rebuild their lives and homes after the devastation of flood, earthquake, hurricane, wildfire – in Turkey, Syria, Afghanistan and so many more countries around the world.

***In this season of Advent and hope for our world,*** Let the peace of Jesus rule in our hearts, and in the hearts of all those around our world desperate for peace and an end to war and human suffering.

***Amen***

**Hebrews 4: 16**

”Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

***Lord, help us to pray and hear us***

Use your hand as a model. Your fingers can be used to bring to mind different things to pray for.

1. **Thumb**
This is the strongest digit on your hand. Give thanks for all the strong things in your life, like home and family, relationships that support and sustain you.
2. **Index finger**
This is the pointing finger. Pray for all those people and things in your life who guide and help you. Friends, teachers, doctors, nurses, emergency services and so on.
3. **Middle finger**
This is the tallest finger. Pray for all the important people who have power in the world, like world leaders and their governments, members of parliament and local councillors, the Royal Family, other world leaders and their governments.
4. **Ring finger**
This is the weakest finger on your hand. It can’t do much by itself. Remember the poor, the weak, the helpless, the hungry, the sick, the ill and the bereaved.
5. **Little finger**
This is the smallest and the last finger on your hand. Pray for yourself.

