

Ross and Archenfield Deanery

Praying Together

Prayer Diary

Sunday 1st February 2026 to

Saturday 28th February



Revd Mark writes;

Welcome to our Deanery Prayer Diary for February

We are moving from Christmas to Lent during this month. We close our Christmas and Epiphany celebrations with the feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple—also known as Candlemas, for in Mediaeval times, people would bring candles to be blessed that the give light to the whole house. We have the echo of this tradition in the baptism candle we present at the end of the Baptism service to those newly admitted to the family of the Church.

Of course, we cannot forget Ash Wednesday. This marks the start of our 40 days of prayer, fasting and good works through the season of Lent. If you count the days you will see that Sundays don't count and that we have the occasional Saints day to life us as well—in this case Matthias who replaced Judas.

There is much to look forward to as the days lengthen and we see the signs of spring, warmer days and new life. February 14th is seen in the world as Valentine's Day but we also remember Cyril and Methodius who took the Gospel message to the Slavic tribes in modern day Serbia, Croatia etc and on to Romania. Their mission was vital then as our mission to our world is now. We may not be remembered as Cyril and Methodius, but that doesn't mean our efforts are in vain.

Revd Mark

Please do get in contact if you have specific places or projects to pray for. Please pray for the parishes of the Wye Reaches Benefice in their interregnum .

Please pray for David, appointed as our Rural Dean.

You can contact me at revmark100@yahoo.co.uk or 07882410759.

Sunday 1st February—4th Sunday of Epiphany

Scripture: John 2 verses 9—11

⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, ¹⁰‘Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.’ ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Collect: God our creator, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness:

we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief, shine into the hearts of all your people, and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of 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. Amen.

For our Prayers: All who work in pubs and entertainment venues as they provide a vital social service for our communities and for our local pubs under pressure to keep open. For the glory of God to be revealed in those moments that transform us and our world.

Across our Deanery: St. John the Baptist, Aston Ingham and for their Church Officers and congregation and all who live in the village.

Monday 2nd—Feast of Candlemas or The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

Scripture: Luke 2 verses 22—24

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

Collect: Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh:

grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For our Prayers: All new parents as they tenderly hold their new born children. All who are faithfully working for the Kingdom of God in these challenging times.

Across our Deanery: All Saints, Bishopswood in the process of being made redundant, the community centre and the monthly parish breakfast event at Bishopswood Village Hall.

Tuesday 3rd Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg and Missionary to Denmark and Sweden 865

Scripture: Romans 10 verses 14—15

¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And

how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

Collect: God of grace and might, who sent your servant Anskar to spread the gospel to the Nordic peoples:

raise up, we pray, in our generation messengers of your good news and heralds of your kingdom that the world may come to know the immeasurable riches of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For our Prayers: The people of the Nordic countries and the Lutheran Church. Our links through the Meissen Agreement and a strengthening of ecumenical links across our churches.

Across our Deanery: St. Michael and All Angels, Brampton Abbotts. For the people in the village of Brampton Abbotts, the C of E Primary School and that the church of St, Michael become a vital part of village life.

Wednesday 4th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 48—51

⁴⁸ I revere your commandments, which I love,
and I will meditate on your statutes.

⁴⁹ Remember your word to your servant,
in which you have made me hope.

⁵⁰ This is my comfort in my distress,
that your promise gives me life.

For our Prayers: All who are studying the Bible, especially for those local house groups in our parishes that read and reflect on the Bible and draw from it strength to sustain themselves.

Across our Deanery: St. Bridget, Bridstow. For the village, Bridstow C of E Primary School and the village.

Thursday 5th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 52—53

⁵² When I think of your ordinances from of old,
I take comfort, O Lord.

⁵³ Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked,
those who forsake your law.

For our Prayers: Remind us, O God, of the eternal nature of your word, that speaks to us through the years and cultures to draw us back to you, the source of truth and life.

Across our Deanery: St. Michael and All Angels, Dewsall and St. Mary Callow (closed). For those in the village of Callow and for those getting married at Dewsall Court and Dewsall Church.

Friday 6th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verse 54—56

⁵⁴ Your statutes have been my songs
wherever I make my home.

⁵⁵ I remember your name in the night, O Lord,
and keep your law.

⁵⁶ This blessing has fallen to me,
for I have kept your precepts.

For our Prayers: All who are inspired by the Bible to write worship songs and hymns that lead us into a deeper relationship with God.

Across our Deanery: St. Peter, Dixton. For the PCC and all working to restore the church.

Saturday 7th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 57—58

⁵⁷ The Lord is my portion;
I promise to keep your words.
⁵⁸ I implore your favour with all my heart;
be gracious to me according to your promise.

For our Prayers: All who are beginning their journey of faith, those who will be attending Alpha and similar courses and, in whom the Holy Spirit will work.

Across our Deanery: St. Mary, Foy. For the hamlet of Foy and for those who raft and canoe down the Wye past the church.

Sunday 8th Second Sunday before Lent

Scripture: Matthew 6 verses 28—30

Jesus said “²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you— you of little faith?

Collect: Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image:

teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. Amen.

For our Prayers: As we approach the Season of Lent, help us to put Kingdom Values at the top of our way of living.

Across our Deanery: St. Swithin, Ganarew. For the people of the village, the work going on in the church and the care home next to the church.

Monday 9th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 59—60

⁵⁹ When I think of your ways,
I turn my feet to your decrees;
⁶⁰ I hurry and do not delay
to keep your commandments.

For our Prayers: May we continue to walk in the way of righteousness, straying neither to right or to left.

Across our Deanery: St. Michael and All Angels, Garway. For those who worship there, those who live in Garway and for its primary school, and those looking to the future of the church building.

Tuesday 10th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 61—62

⁶¹ Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me,
I do not forget your law.
⁶² At midnight I rise to praise you,
because of your righteous ordinances.

For our Prayers: All who struggle to sleep, whether through worry or stress. May they know the power of God to bring peace to troubled hearts and the grace of the Spirit to bring sleep to tired eyes.

Across our Deanery: St. Giles, Goodrich and St. Margaret, Welsh Bicknor. For the people of the villages, for Goodrich C of E School and for visitors to Goodrich Castle.

Wednesday 11th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verse 63—64

⁶³ I am a companion of all who fear you,
of those who keep your precepts.

⁶⁴ The earth, O Lord, is full of your steadfast love;
teach me your statutes.

For our Prayers: All who belong to our church, whether that church is great or small, and the faithfulness and prayers we can bring to our community.

Across our Deanery: St. Dubricius, Hentland and St. Catharine, Hoarwithy. For the two villages and those who live there, for the project at St. Catharine's to improve access, the local pub and shop in Hoarwithy.

Thursday 12th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 65—66

⁶⁵ You have dealt well with your servant,
O Lord, according to your word.

⁶⁶ Teach me good judgement and knowledge,
for I believe in your commandments.

For our Prayers: All who are seeking wisdom and have complex problems to solve, especially those whose actions affect the lives of many, whether at a local or national or international level.

Across our Deanery: St. Michael and All Angels, Hope Mansell. For the people who live and work in the village.

Friday 13th

Scripture:

⁶⁷ Before I was humbled I went astray,
but now I keep your word.

⁶⁸ You are good and do good;
teach me your statutes.

For our Prayers: All who are returning to the church after a time away, may they be welcomed. For our own thoughts, which often stray from the good we intend to do.

Across our Deanery: St. Andrew with St. Mary, How Caple. For those who live in the village and the surrounding farms. For How Caple Court and those who are getting married there this year.

Saturday 14th Cyril and Methodius, Missionaries to the Slavs, 869 & 885

Scripture: Isiah 52 verses 7—8

⁷ How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’

⁸ Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

Collect: Lord of all,
who gave to your servants Cyril and Methodius the gift of tongues to proclaim the gospel to the Slavs:

make your whole Church one as you are one that all Christians may honour one another, and east and west acknowledge one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and you, the God and Father of all; 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. Amen.

For our Prayers: For the people of the Balkan nations, that they might find what it is that unites them after so many years of conflicts and division. For Orthodox and Catholic churches in the area that they may seek unity.

Across our Deanery: St. John the Baptist, Kings Caple and for those who live in the village. For Kings Caple Primary School and the staff and pupils.

Sunday 15th Sunday next before Lent

Scripture: Matthew 17 verses 1– 2

¹Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.

Collect: Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross:

give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For our Prayers: All who have glimpses of the glory of God, that their faith may be strengthened. Our churches and congregations as we prepare for the season of Lent. Our schools as they start their half-term breaks.

Across our Deanery: St. Mary, Linton, and those who live and work in the village.

Monday 16th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 69—70

⁶⁹ The arrogant smear me with lies,
but with my whole heart I keep your precepts.
⁷⁰ Their hearts are fat and gross,
but I delight in your law.

For our Prayers: All who have been or currently are being falsely accused. May they have the strength to get through the difficult times ahead as they seek to clear their name.

Across our Deanery: St. Mary, Little Birch and for those who live in the village. For those walking the Herefordshire Trail as it passes the church, The Village Hall and all the activities that go on there.

Tuesday 17th—Shrove Tuesday—Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda and Martyr, 1977

Scripture: John 12 verses 24—25

Jesus said, ²⁴‘Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.’

Collect: God of truth, whose servant Janani Luwum walked in the light, and in his death defied the powers of darkness:
free us from fear of those who kill the body, that we too may walk as

children of light, through him who overcame darkness by the power of the cross, 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. Amen.

For our Prayers: For those sharing pancakes, whether as families or communities, that they might also recognise their need for forgiveness before starting their journey through Lent.

Across our Deanery: South Wye Rural Benefice of St. David, Little Dewchurch with St Dubricius, Ballingham (closed), St John of Jerusalem, Bolstone (closed), St John the Baptist, Aconbury (in the care of the Duchy of Cornwall), St Andrew, Dinedor and St. Cuthbert, Holme Lacy (in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust).

Wednesday 18th - Ash Wednesday

Scripture: Matthew 6:19–21

Jesus said ¹⁹“o not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.’

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; 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. Amen.

For our Prayers: All who will be bearing the Ash cross on their foreheads today, and their public witness to the faith which changes lives and bring peace.

Across our Deanery: St. Junabius, Llandinabo and all who work in the area, especially in the orchards and soft fruit businesses.

Thursday 19th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 71—72

⁷¹ It is good for me that I was humbled,
so that I might learn your statutes.

⁷² The law of your mouth is better to me
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

For our Prayers: As we begin our Lenten discipline, so make us mindful of the riches with which we have been blessed that our hearts be not lead astray.

Across our Deanery: St. Deinst, Llangarron and for all who live in the village. For the parish in its interregnum.

Friday 20th

Scripture: Psalm 199 verses 73—74

⁷³ Your hands have made and fashioned me;
give me understanding that I may learn your commandments.

⁷⁴ Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice,
because I have hoped in your word.

For our Prayers: Giving thanks for our physical bodies and the joy that we find in movement, exercise and living. Praying for those who struggle to move freely.

Across our Deanery: Christ Church, Llangrove, the Llangrove Academy School and the village with its very active community hall and pub. For the parish in its interregnum.

Saturday 21st

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 75–76

⁷⁵ I know, O Lord, that your judgements are right,
and that in faithfulness you have humbled me.

⁷⁶ Let your steadfast love become my comfort
according to your promise to your servant.

For our Prayers: All who are struggling with their faith, that their prayers and cries may not be unanswered but that they come to a deeper appreciation of the God who made them and loves them.

Across our Deanery: St. Matthew, Marstow, its PCC and those who live in the village. For the parish in its interregnum.

Sunday 22nd First Sunday of Lent

Scripture: Matthew 4 verses 1–2

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.

Collect: Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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. Amen.

For our Prayers: As we journey together this Lent, for Lent study groups meeting, praying and reflecting on the goodness of God that we may be drawn together in our worship and praise.

Across our Deanery: Christ Church, Llanwarne and St. John the Baptist (ruin), Llanwarne, for its future as a Festival Church and for those working to restore the old church.

Monday 23rd Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, c. 155

Scripture: Revelation 2 verses 10—11

¹⁰Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Beware, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison so that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have affliction. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Whoever conquers will not be harmed by the second death.

Collect: Almighty God, who gave to your servant Polycarp boldness to confess the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ before the rulers of this world and courage to die for his faith:

grant that we also may be ready to give an answer for the faith that is in us and to suffer gladly for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For our Prayers: Those who are being persecuted for their faith across our world. We pray especially for Christians in Iran in this time of unrest and uncertainty.

Across our Deanery: St. Mary and St. Thomas a Becket, Much Birch, for all who live in the village, Much Birch Primary School and those who work at the surgery.

Tuesday 24th Matthias the Apostle

Scripture: Acts 1 verses 23—26

²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.’ ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Collect: Almighty God, who in the place of the traitor Judas chose your faithful servant Matthias to be of the number of the Twelve: preserve your Church from false apostles and, by the ministry of faithful pastors and teachers, keep us steadfast in 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. Amen.

For our Prayers: All who find themselves called by God to fulfil a role they did not expect. May they have wisdom and be humble may they be listeners as well as doers of the will of God.

Across our Deanery: St. David, Much Dewchurch and for those who live in the village. For Charnwood Nursing Home and the residents and staff, for the Steiner Academy and the staff and pupils.

Wednesday 25th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 77—78

⁷⁷ Let your mercy come to me, that I may live;
for your law is my delight.

⁷⁸ Let the arrogant be put to shame,

because they have subverted me with guile;
as for me, I will meditate on your precepts.

For our Prayers: That the plans of the wicked come to naught and that those who stand up for justice and righteousness are vindicated.

Across our Deanery: St. John the Baptist, Orcop and all who live in the village. For the village hall and the events that take place there.

Thursday 26th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 79—80

⁷⁹ Let those who fear you turn to me,
so that they may know your decrees.

⁸⁰ May my heart be blameless in your statutes,
so that I may not be put to shame.

For our Prayers: All who are thinking about being confirmed, that over this Lent, their faith will grow and flourish and change their life and the lives of those around them.

Across our Deanery: St. Denys, Pencoyd, St. Mary, Tretire and St. Michael and All Angels, Michaelchurch (under the care of CCT). For all who live and farm in the area.

Friday 27th George Herbert, Priest, Poet and Hymnwriter 1633

Scripture: Revelation 19 verses 6—7

⁶Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out,
'Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.

⁷Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready;

Collect: King of glory, king of peace, who called your servant George Herbert from the pursuit of worldly honours to be a priest in the temple of his God and king:

grant us also the grace to offer ourselves with singleness of heart in humble obedience to your service;
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. Amen.

For our Prayers: All who write hymns, for those who play in our churches as musicians and that our hymns may reflect our theology as we praise and glorify our God.

Across our Deanery: St. Peter, Peterstow, for those who rely on the local shop and those who live in the village, for the church and its role as a village hub.

Saturday 28th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 81—82

⁸¹ My soul languishes for your salvation;
I hope in your word.

⁸² My eyes fail with watching for your promise;
I ask, ‘When will you comfort me?’

For our Prayers: All who are struggling with depressive illness and find living each day difficult. May we walk along side and share the burden if asked.

Across our Deanery: St. Mary, Ross-on-Wye, for all who live in the town and those moving into the new housing. For the work of the Messy Church.

Sunday 1st March—St David

Scripture: 2 Samuel 23 verses 2–4

²The spirit of the LORD speaks through me,
his word is upon my tongue.

³The God of Israel has spoken,
the Rock of Israel has said to me:
One who rules over people justly,
ruling in the fear of God,
⁴is like the light of morning,
like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,
gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

Collect: Almighty God, who called your servant David to be a faithful and wise steward of your mysteries for the people of Wales: in your mercy, grant that, following his purity of life and zeal for the gospel of Christ, we may with him receive the crown of everlasting life;

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. Amen.

For our Prayers: Churches dedicated to St. David (Little Dewchurch and Much Dewchurch) along with the people of Wales and their Welsh culture and language.

Across our Deanery: For Emily Goy, Life-Link Chaplain, and her links with John Kyrle Academy and community organisations across the Ross.

Our Deanery Prayer:

Living God, who breathed into your disciples the power of the Holy Spirit, and so equipped them for the work of mission through love and service; Renew in our churches a vision of your kingdom where all things are made new, and justice and peace will reign; and grant us grace and strength to proclaim this good news, won for us through the love of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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