4

**24th 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**



**4th Sunday in Advent**

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**“Glory to God**

**in the highest Heaven, and on Earth, peace to those on whom His favour rests”**

**Luke 2:14**


## **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 the people of our Parish and the wider area around us.***

For all who will be working long shifts this Christmas in our town and around our nation, especially all in our Emergency Services, the NHS, & also those working in hotels and licenced premises.

For those in our Police and Ambulance Services who sadly face an increased risk of assault at this time of the year, especially when dealing with incidents of alcohol related violence and public disorder.

For those in situations where they are at risk of domestic violence and abuse, and for those who face Christmas alone or homeless.

For all volunteers who serve others in need or in distress around our nation, especially at this time our Volunteer Lifeboat Crews.

For those volunteering and serving You as Street Pastors, ministering and providing comfort for the vulnerable, the hungry and the homeless in our town and around our nation.

***Lord hear us as 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.

For the people of Ukraine, that You will bring them a lasting and just peace free from the risk of further aggression from their Russian neighbours.

For all people around our world trying to rebuild their lives and homes torn apart by war or natural disasters.

For those whose lives are at risk from rapid human induced global warming, adversely affecting every continent on Earth.

For all those who are grieving and those seriously wounded in hospital following the awful events in at the University in Prague.

***We pray for all the people of every part of the Holy Land afflicted by ongoing warfare, especially the people of Israel, Gaza and The West Bank.***

“God is under the rubble in Gaza He is with the frightened and the refugees. He is in the operating room. This is our consolation. He walks with us through the valley of the shadow of death. My prayer is that those who are suffering will feel His healing and comforting presence.”

***Pastor Isaac Paul, the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bethlehem.***