Sat.26th **Boxing Day:** As we enjoy Boxing Day, let us give thanks for the joy of Christmas and the wonderful gift of our Lord Jesus. Pray for all those spending time with family and friends, and remember especially those who are lonely, grieving or finding this time of year difficult. Ask God to surround them with His love, comfort and peace. May we continue to share the kindness and generosity of the Christmas message, looking for opportunities to bless others and show the love of Jesus in all that we do.

Sun.27th Please pray for our church family as we come together to worship in the days following Christmas. Give thanks for the joy of celebrating Jesus' birth and for the reminder that God is always with us. Pray that, even as the Christmas celebrations draw to a close, we will continue to hold on to the peace, hope and love that Jesus brings. We pray for Rev Michael Cooke our celebrant and preacher this morning.

Mon.28th In this Christmas season, let us all remember the true meaning of this time – that Jesus was born to reconcile us to God. Remember in our hearts and prayers those who are unwell, isolated and face the challenge of physical and mental illness.

Tue. 29th *Jesus said, "I tell you that there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent." Luke 15.7.*
Today people largely despise self-righteousness and gloss over sin. It is as well that the judging which matters is in God's hands! Perhaps the approach of a New Year is a good time for an audit. How do You want to change me, All-Knowing Lord? Make me willing!

Wed.30th As we come towards the end of another year, let us give thanks to God for His faithfulness, love and guidance throughout 2026. Pray that we will take time to reflect on the blessings we have received, the challenges we have faced and the ways in which God has been with us through it all.

Thu.31st **New Year's Eve:** As we come to the end of 2026, let us thank the Lord Jesus for His love, faithfulness and guidance throughout the year. Pray that He will continue to walk alongside us, strengthen our faith and fill our hearts with His peace. May we enter 2027 with hope and confidence, trusting Him to lead us in all that lies ahead and help us share His love with others.

Thank you for reading and using our prayer diary, we hope you found it helpful. We would welcome your feedback. If there is any topic you would like included in a future diary, please telephone the Church Office on 609513, or call in between 10 -12 noon Monday to Friday.

The Parish of St Andrew's, Reading Street

Prayer Diary December 2026

Prayer lies at the heart of the Christian life.
God promises to hear us and to respond when we pray.

Tue.1st Gracious Lord, as December has come, we realise that busy days lie ahead. These days may be so stressful with presents to buy and to send, cards to write, lists to compile and to work through. Please give us the health and strength we'll need, and a large portion of the peace of Christmas in advance.

Wed.2nd We pray for those on low incomes and finding it hard to heat their homes or feed their families. Bring them to our mind when we have extra so that we can share our bounty.

Thu. 3rd Please pray for the final preparations for our Christmas church family lunch tomorrow at the "Racing Greyhound" in Ramsgate. Pray for everyone involved in preparing and serving, that all will go smoothly and that there will be a spirit of joy, peace and unity.

Fri. 4th Please pray for our special Christmas lunch as we come together as a church family today. Pray that it will be a joyful time of fellowship, friendship and sharing, with a warm welcome for everyone. May the Lord bless our time together, strengthen the bonds within our church family, and give us opportunities to show His love to one another. Pray especially that anyone who may be feeling lonely or in need of encouragement will feel loved, included and valued.

Sat. 5th **"***A wise man controls his temper. He knows that anger causes mistakes". Prov. 4.29 - The Living Bible.* How much it pays to think before we speak and act! Great harm is done to the work of the Kingdom of God when we fail to do this. Keep me alert today, Lord.

Sun. 6th *"He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth". Luke 1. 14.* These words were spoken about John the Baptist who tends to be overlooked as Christmas draws nearer. Thank You for John, Lord!

Mon. 7th **"***A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones". Prov. 17.22*
Good news and pleasant words bring health to the whole body. Loving God, enable us to be bringers of blessing to those whom we meet this week!

Tue. 8th As Christmas is nearly here, Merciful Lord, we remember the men and women of our Armed Forces serving in dangerous places. Help each one of them to know the reality of **Immanuel: God is with us** where they are. Strengthen and use the chaplains. Comfort families at this time of separation. Hear our prayer, we beseech You.

Wed. 9th Thank You for the gift and privilege of prayer, Lord. It is impossible to know how many use this Prayer Diary, nor can we measure what we owe to the prayers of others - to you who reads this just now. God hears and answers your prayers. Please keep going! Richly bless these friends, Lord!

Thu.10th Giving God, how generous and loving You are! Help me today, wherever I am, to appreciate even one of Your blessings and to thank You for it.

Fri. 11th *"If you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins". Matt. 6.15*
We tend to forget this part of The Lord's Prayer, don't we? Forgiveness doesn't come easily to most of us. Grow forgiveness as a strong and beautiful plant in my life, Lord.

Sat.12th Coming Lord, as we continue to prepare for Christmas, we pray for our brothers and sisters who are in prison because of their faith - some for years on false charges. Comfort and strengthen them and prompt us to remember them and their families. We have it so easy!

Sun.13th **Third Sunday in Advent:** Heavenly Father, we pray for our Christmas Carol Service at Maurice House at 4 pm today, as we have the privilege of sharing the joy and hope of Christmas with the residents and staff. Please bless everyone taking part, and may the familiar carols, readings and message of Christmas bring comfort, happiness and precious memories to all who hear them.

Mon.14th **Callis Grange School Christmas service in Church today.**
Coming Lord, the children will be excited and the adults tired and grateful! Please make this service meaningful to every single person present. Some of us still remember one of these services from our own childhood: do it again, Lord.

Tue.15th Lord, give strength and courage, we pray, to those on their own this Christmas - especially if it is the first time they have not been with their loved one. Ease their pain with Your warm and enduring love.

Wed.16th Gracious Lord, we don't always get things right and often others are hurt as a result. Help us to be willing to say sorry and to mend relationships. Help us to forgive ourselves too. We are a work in progress!

Thu.17th Please pray for our community outdoor carol service on Kitty's Green at 6 pm today. Ask God to bless this special opportunity to bring our community together to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Pray for good weather, for all those involved in organising and leading the service, and for everyone who comes along to join in the singing. May the familiar carols, Christmas message and warm fellowship touch hearts and remind people of the true meaning of Christmas.

Fri.18th We give heartfelt thanks for all those who give of their time and talents to serve us in the name of their faith - religious leaders, office bearers, cleaners, and flower arrangers ,etc. Without their continuing effort, we would have no church. Bless them all.

Sat.19th The excitement is almost too much to bear, Lord, as Your birthday approaches! We ask for Your blessing on every child in our parish and pray that they are given the gift of knowing You. Many will have shared in the excitement of the nativity plays in schools; many will have sung carols and listened attentively at their school Christmas services in Church this week; many have been reached through the media… Speak, Lord!

Sun.20th **4th Sunday in Advent:** The Junior church will hold its Christmas nativity play this morning. The Countdown to Christmas is well underway! We give thanks for all members of our Junior Church who will help tell the story of the Nativity - help us to help each other and change the X in Xmas to CHRISTMAS !!

Mon.21st We ask for your blessing, Lord, on anyone struggling with mental or physical health problems. Help us to understand their needs and always to treat them as we would wish to treat You. Amen.

Tue.22nd *"Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord" Lev. 19.18.* How often relationships break down, sadly within the church fellowship, and that harms our witness and outreach. Jesus taught His followers to love our enemies and He offers us help through His Holy Spirit. Help us to use that help, Lord!

Wed.23rd Please pray for our Nine Lessons and Carols service as we gather to hear again the wonderful story of God's love and the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Pray for everyone taking part in the readings, music and singing, that all will feel God's presence and that the service will be a time of peace, reflection and joy. Ask God to touch the hearts of everyone who attends, whether they are regular members of our church or visiting for the first time.

Thu.24th **Christmas Eve:** Coming Lord, we anticipate this evening's services with joy! Bless those who seldom come at any other time but wouldn't miss tonight. Inspire us all through the words of Scripture and of the carols, and challenge us again to greet You joyfully. Be near to us, Lord Jesus.

Fri.25th **Christmas Day**: Happy Birthday, Jesus! This is always an excellent opportunity for the Church family to come together in worship. The children bring one of their presents and we all look back on another year with God and give Him heartfelt thanks. Pray for God's blessing on everyone as we celebrate the birthday of our Lord and Saviour.