

HERNE BAY TOWN & VILLAGES PRAYER GUIDE

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DECEMBER 2020

Tuesday 1 December	As we move through the season of Advent preparing for the birth of our Saviour, we pray that, although many will not be able to give and receive such large gifts this year, they may know God's greatest gift for us all – the birth of his son.
Wednesday 2 December	We continue to pray that God will make his presence known in our country and across our world. We pray that lessons will have been learned during past months and that many will have experienced worship and teaching via technology in their own homes.
Thursday 3 December	Today's Community Coffee Morning will be held on Zoom from 11am-12noon. Contact Revd Sue Martin 01227 360948 for Zoom link. Pray that many people will be comforted by sharing this time with friends old and new.
Friday 4 December	Pray and thank God for all those working on the huge challenge of finding a vaccine against Covid 19. We give thanks for the brave volunteers who have been testing vaccines across the world, may they be blessed and protected from harm.
Saturday 5 December	Some churches will be holding a service tomorrow, many more will be preparing worship on YouTube or Facebook. Pray for those involved with the preparations and planning for all these opportunities for us all to celebrate God's love.
Sunday 6 December	O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Psalm 139:1-3
Monday 7 December	Remembering the staff at Strode Park, we pray that they will be especially blessed this Christmas and that their hard work will result in a truly special Christmas this year for all those they care for.
Tuesday 8 December	Pray for our leaders as they meet on Zoom for their Fraternal meeting this afternoon from 2-3.30pm. May they be blessed and find support in each other's company and prayers. St Bartholomew's is open each Tuesday for private prayer from 12noon-1pm.
Wednesday 9 December	While newspaper headlines repeatedly predict gloom and doom at the festive season we pray that each of us will have opportunities to share the real reason for Christmas with our neighbours. Pray that we will find ways to reach out within current guidelines.
Thursday 10 December	Pray for our government as they struggle to guide the country through the pandemic. Pray for sound scientific advice and cross-party support so that, with God's grace, we may return to life in all its promised fullness.
Friday 11 December	Pray for those facing or recovering from surgery and for families looking after loved ones at home. May they be given the gifts of peace and strength and may they know and trust that they themselves are cared for by a loving God.
Saturday 12 December	Pray for those who are peacefully campaigning for greater awareness about climate change. Protect them from those people who have no real affinities to any groups but who delight in causing trouble at all protests.
Sunday 13 December	All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over nations. Psalm 22: 27-28
Monday 14 December	During this week, many schools will be breaking up for the Christmas holidays. We pray for our teachers and give thanks for all they have been doing to keep our children safe during the difficult times. May God give them rest and refreshment during the break.
Tuesday 15 December	Pray for our nation that our people may be lifted and energised, looking for the good in each other and praising God for his many blessings rather than living 'cup half empty'. Pray for positive, exciting reporting by the media.

Wednesday 16 December	Pray for all church leaders and leadership teams as they try to plan ways of taking the real meaning of Christmas out in their communities this year. Ask God to inspire them with fresh ideas and energy.
Thursday 17 December	We remember those who are dreading the Christmas and New Year break. Some are fearful, many are alone. Pray that radio and TV channels will honour millions of Christians this year by offering more services, talks and carols.
Friday 18 December	Carol services are usually wonderful occasions for us to welcome many people who do not know Jesus. Pray that the Church will be able to joyfully proclaim the message of Christ at Christmas.
Saturday 19 December	Pray for our markets and high street traders as they face uncertain times ahead. This is usually a busy time for them so we pray that there will be a window of opportunity for shops to open their doors for a few weeks before Christmas.
Sunday 20 December	Find rest O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I shall not be shaken. My salvation and my honour depend on God, he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times Psalm 62:5-8
Monday 21 December	Pray that, as we approach the easing of rules for the 5 days of Christmas, that people will not abuse this time of freedom and so endanger many lives. Pray that common sense will prevail.
Tuesday 22 December	We pray for the Queen and Prince Philip. After a distressing year, we ask for the Lord's healing power to be poured out on them and that broken family relationships and troubled issues affecting the whole family will be resolved in 2021.
Wednesday 23 December	Many key workers and carers will be working throughout the Christmas and New Year breaks. Thank God for their commitment and pray for all who work in the medical profession that they may be encouraged and strengthened as they care for us.
Thursday 24 December	Pray for technology to offer the Christmas story today as Nativity plays are shared and the traditional Midnight Mass is screened across the world. Pray for our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted in so many countries.
Friday 25 December	As we thank God for Jesus, we pray that those holding Christmas morning services will be filled with joy. Pray for those unable to leave the house for any reason. May they be able to hear or watch carol services and feel part of God's great family today.
Saturday 26 December	Pray that families will share in the fun of Boxing Day. Remember in our prayers those whose Christmas has been made better by food banks and charities and pray for the safety of those who have made this possible by generously giving time and money.
Sunday 27 December	Let all who take refuge in you, be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them so those who love your name may rejoice in you. O Lord, bless the righteous and surround them with your favour as with a shield. Psalm 5:11-12
Monday 28 December	Now that the 5-day festivities are nearly over, thoughts will return to an uncertain year ahead. For many this means redundancy and unemployment, so we pray that ways will be found for struggling families to be helped and given hope for the future.
Tuesday 29 December	We lift before the Lord our own towns and villages during these difficult days and throughout the year ahead. Pray that we will all soon be able to meet and worship with each other and will be free to restart all church groups and activities in our areas.
Wednesday 30 December	We look ahead to all church mission visions for 2021. Our communities have been changed. Many people will be fearful, angry and grieving and so we pray that answers will be found to the psalmist's cry, 'How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?'
Thursday 31 December	As we come to the end of this year, pray that we can look ahead with joyful hearts knowing that the lessons we have learned about ourselves and our communities will result in powerful and wonderful differences in 2021.

If you have prayer requests, please email Anne Lehane at hbprayernet@gmail.com

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