

## Reflection - Gifts

Gifts, big or small, wanted or unwanted:  
after Christmas haven't we had enough of them?  
But then come the wise men  
and we're back with gifts again;  
gold, frankincense and myrrh.  
It all seems so far away and long ago;  
gold, frankincense and myrrh –  
they don't seem to have anything to do with us.  
But gifts do – for you are the great gift giver.

We read the lists, prophecy, healing, teaching ...  
... and wonder, 'Is this one mine?'  
But there is one we can be certain of,  
one you give freely,  
one you encourage us to share.  
You give us one another;  
you give us One Another!

So when we meet – gift!  
When we talk, smile, laugh or cry together – gift!  
Even when we gossip or tell dirty jokes – gift!  
Just stop for a moment and think of all those  
God has given you as gifts – and give thanks  
for wit and humour, care and companionship,  
a chance to share and be shared.  
For never forget – you are a gift too!  
Specially chosen and crafted by God to be  
just the right gift for those you call gifts.

*Loving Father,  
gift creator and gift giver;  
I thank you for those you give me  
to care for and to be cared for by.  
May I never forget I too am a gift  
ready to give and be given for your sake;  
just as your greatest gift, Jesus,  
gave himself for us all. Amen.*

## The Beacon Benefice

# Prayer Diary

## January 2017

Happy New Year!

We're back to our usual format this month but we hope you appreciated our change for Advent. Certainly, more diaries were taken than usual so we hope so. Do let us know what you thought.

I know that at least some of you liked the short reflections last month so we've put another, slightly longer, one on the back page this month. What do you think; is something like this helpful?

As well as Epiphany, this month also sees the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. There are daily prayers (and reflections) on the CTBI website. Do have a look. [ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer](http://ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer)

Rev Mike

### Beacon Prayer

Please help us pray our way around all our Churches.

6<sup>th</sup> Jan Cranham  
13<sup>th</sup> Jan Sheepscombe  
20<sup>th</sup> Jan Painswick  
27<sup>th</sup> Jan Pitchcombe

3<sup>rd</sup> Feb Edge  
10<sup>th</sup> Feb Harescombe  
17<sup>th</sup> Feb Cranham  
24<sup>th</sup> Feb Sheepscombe

### Weekly Prayer Themes

2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> January  
Peace across our world  
9<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> January  
Refugees from conflict  
16<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> January  
An end to oppression  
23<sup>rd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> January  
Justice for all people  
30<sup>th</sup> Jan – 4<sup>th</sup> Feb  
Access to medical care for all

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>People who live in ...</b>
2	John 1.35–42	Archdeacon Jackie Searle	Utility companies	Stamages Lane PA
3	John 1.43–end	Area Dean Mike Smith	Visitors to the benefice	Stepping Stone Lane PA
4	John 2.1–12	Bell ringers	Young people	Stockend ED
5	John 2.13–end	Bishop Rachel	Ashwell House	Stockley Way PA
6	Jer. 31.7-14	Bishop Robert	Brookthorpe Hall Care Centre	Stroud Road BR
7	1 John 3	Choir members	Brookthorpe Village	Stroud Road ED
9	Amos 1	Church cleaners	Carers	Stroud Road PA
10	Amos 2	Church refreshment servers/providers	Children	Styles Lane HA
11	Amos 3	Churchwardens	County Councillors	The Croft PA
12	Amos 4	Churchyard maintainers/mowers	Cranham Primary School	The Highlands PA
13	Amos 5.1–17	Deanery Synod reps	Cranham Village	The Knowle CR
14	Amos 5.18–end	Diocesan Synod reps	Cranham Village Hall	The Park PA
16	Amos 6	Eucharistic ministers	Croft Primary School	Tibbiwell Lane PA/SH
17	Amos 7	Fiona Gill	District Councillors	Tibbiwell PA
18	Amos 8	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	Edge Village	Upper Washwell PA
19	Amos 9	Flower arrangers	Edge Village Hall	Upton Lane BR
20	Hosea 1.1–2.1	Homegroups	Harescombe Village	Vicarage Street PA
21	Hosea 2.2–17	Hospital visitors	Harescombe Village Hall	Wades Lane PI
23	Hosea 2.18–3.end	Intercessors	Local bus services	Whiteshill Road ED
24	Hosea 4.1–16	Lesson readers	Local clubs and societies	Wick Street P/PA
25	Phil. 3.1-14	Lydia Savage	Local fairs/events	Woodborough Close PA
26	Hosea 5.8–6.6	Marah	Local farms/smallholdings	Wordings Mount SH
27	Hosea 6.7–7.2	Messy Church,	Local garages/workshops	Wragg Castle Lane PI
28	Hosea 8	Mike Campbell	Local Hotels and B&Bs	Wynstones Drive BR
30	Hosea 9	Mike Holloway	Local offices	Yokehouse Lane PA
31	Hosea 10	Mission team members	Local playgroups/preschools	Andrews Close BR