Week 4: 19th - 25th October

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. **Hebrews 4:12**

This week we pray for the Benefice.

Heavenly Father, we bring our thoughts and prayers for all who work for the emergency services. Grant them patience and resilience when they meet angry members of the public, emotions often fuelled by fear. Protect them as they travel to road traffic accidents and give them people to offload to when their shift has been particularly traumatic.

We pray for all people using our country lanes and main roads. As the days shorten, many journeys will be taken in poor light. Lord Jesus, as our car headlights light up the road ahead of us, help us to also remember '*Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.*' **Psalm 119:105**

Let us pray for our government and all who hold positions of authority. They make difficult decisions on our behalf. May they do so with wisdom and compassion.

O Lord, we pray for peace in all areas of the world where conflicts ruin lives and destroy communities. We think especially of the Middle East, Ukraine and other places on our hearts.

We pray for all Christians who are persecuted for their faith.

Action: *As we listen to the news or read online, or in newspapers, chose a news item and pray for the situation and the people involved.*

Week 5: 26th October - 1st November

"We are all called to be saints, each in our own way, depending on our state of life and our unique gifts."
Pope Francis

This week we pray for Christians throughout the world. Gracious Lord, help us all to live in your truth.

As final preparations are made to the various carts that will entertain us over the Carnival season, let us pray for the safety of all involved, and that their hard work is rewarded by increased donations into the charity buckets.

We pray for our local school children and all the school staff as they enjoy half term week. As always we lift up for protection vulnerable children who may be most at risk when not in school.

Most merciful Father, look upon all who mourn the loss of a loved one and grant them comfort, through memories shared with family or friends.

We pray for the sick, in body, mind or spirit. May they and those who care for them be touched by the kindness and compassion of others.

Moving forward into November, we pray for all working in retail, supermarkets and distribution centres and all involved in delivering parcels to our home.

Action: *Take time out of a busy week, to pause, get in touch with a friend you haven't spoken to or seen for a while.*

Quantock Villages Benefice

Aisholt, Enmore, Goathurst, Holford with Dodington, Kilve with Kilton and Lilstock, Nether Stowey, Over Stowey, Spaxton with Charlynch, Stringston

October 2026

Prayer Diary

Week 1: 1st - 4th October

I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard. **Isaiah 5:1.**

You transplanted a vine from Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. **Psalm 80:8**

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:" 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes'? **Matthew 21:42**

This week we pray for the parishes of Nether Stowey, Enmore and Holford with Dodington.
We pray for all farmers, who work tirelessly, caring for their animals and tending the land. Keep them safe as they work in the fields. Give them hope and someone to talk to when times are difficult.
At this Harvest Season, we give thanks to all who provide food for us to eat, but most of all, Heavenly Father, we offer you our thanks and praise for the sunshine and rain needed to grow food.
Let us pray for all involved in putting on or visiting Bridgwater Fair. May it be a time for families to enjoy time together in fun and laughter.
Loving God, as World Animal Day is this week, we give thanks for the unconditional love we receive from our pets. Thank you Father, that you also offer abundantly more love than we deserve.
Let us offer prayers for workers in animal charities and all in veterinarian centres, for their care and compassion for animals.

Action: *When walking or taking time to look out over gardens or fields, ponder for a while, take in the smells, colours changing. Rest in the marvellous cycle of creation.*

Week 2: 5th - 11th October

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ***Philippians 4:4-5***

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. **Psalm 23:5-6**

This week we pray for the parishes of Aisholt, Stringston and Spaxton with Charlynch.
World Teachers Day gives us the opportunity to give thanks for the educators we have known during our lives.
Let us pray for today's teachers, balancing educating with today's social media pressures and polarised views. Grant them protection from personal attacks and encourage them to promote the teaching of debate and tolerance.
We also pray for teachers in parts of the world where resources are poor, or children are traumatised by the violence of the world they live in. Provide these teachers with support from their community as they give hope, love and compassion to the children they teach.
We pray too for parents, the first educators a child learns from. Strengthen all parents with wisdom, a sense of humour and patience.
Father, nurture in us a desire to develop our knowledge of you and the world you created for us. May we daily learn more about your love.
Loving God, please protect and guide Eleanor and all in the ministry team, as they teach us more about the love of Christ.

Action*: As this week we've thought and prayed about teachers, let us rest awhile in God's Kingdom and all we have learned about His Grace.*

Week 3: 12th - 18th October

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth, Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. ***Psalm 96:1-2***

This week we pray for the parishes of Over Stowey, Goathurst and Kilve with Kilton and Lilstock.
Lord Jesus, forgive us when we fail to love our neighbour as ourselves. Help us to grow in fellowship with one another.
Food banks provide vital support for many families. We pray for all who donate, for the volunteers who run the centres and especially for those using them. Heavenly Father, we thank you that people want to help others. We ask that circumstances change for the better so fewer people have to rely on the food banks.
When we see people outside asking for money, help us to remember that we are all made in God's image. Loving God, you know the reasons each individual ends up without a home and how they are coping with life. Please help the lost, the depressed, the addict, to climb out of the pit they find themselves in.
We pray for victims of crimes, that they might see justice. We also pray for those forced into their criminal actions by drug dealers, traffickers, and gangs etc.
Holy Spirit, may a Christian revival sweep into Somerset, may the scourge of drug pushers be swept aside, and stopped from destroying people's lives. We ask for protection over our towns and villages. In Jesus name, we pray.
Action: *Why not reflect on our own prejudices and emotional triggers and why we have them. Ask God to shine a light on areas we could maybe change or develop our understanding.*