

BENEFICE OF MITFORD AND HEBRON  
JANUARY 2025



**A New Year**  
**Prayer**

Lord, lead me with purpose and direction in 2025. Show me the path You have set before me and guide me with Your wisdom. **Proverbs 3:5-6** encourages us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

## **Pray for our Country and the World**

### **A Hurting World**

New Year's Day, like Christmas Day, or any festival day is for so many people throughout the world another day where energy and focus is just on survival. No firework displays or parties, just the search for warmth, safety and food. And a longed-for hope for peace, justice, freedom and equality.

Let us pray that the New Year will raise up peacemakers, people in positions of power and influence who will use their skills to begin and foster reconciliation and the rebuilding of communities. Create in all the ability to recognise and celebrate differences, that all may live together with a mutual understanding and respect.

Even in our country there is distrust and animosity in communities, fear and anger.

Let's us pray for the healing of relationships and nations.

- Lord, we ask for peace in all nations experiencing war and conflict.
- Father, grant wisdom and understanding to the leaders of the nations, that they may lead with righteousness.
- We pray for justice and equality to prevail in every land, Lord.
- We pray for the persecuted Church around the world.
- May nations work together to protect the environment for future generations.
- Bring peace and stability to regions affected by terrorism.
- Lord, protect refugees and displaced persons, granting them a safe place to call home.
- Bring hope and restoration to nations experiencing natural disasters.
- May Your kingdom come, and Your will be done in every nation, Lord.

## **Pray for the Church**

### **Safeguarding and Abuse**

We pray for all who are subject to abuse of any kind;  
for those experiencing it this day,  
and those living with the cruel memory of it.  
May they know your healing and your peace  
and may there be places of safety  
which bring comfort and reassurance again.  
Where trust has been shattered in the human soul,  
may you gently restore hope.  
Amen.

### **Suggested readings**

Sunday 5th January - John 1: 10-18

Sunday 12th January - Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sunday 19th January - John 2:1-11

Sunday 26th January - Luke 4: 14-21

Pray for:

- Our Ministry Team and all who participate in worship and services. May they find time to rest and recharge after the busy Christmas period. May this new year bring renewed energy, enthusiasm and boldness.
- The work of our Mission Partners- West End Refugee Service; Wansbeck Valley Food Bank and Children's Vision.
- The ongoing review of stewardship and generosity. That people may continue to prayerfully consider their role within the church and in our mission in the community.
- All the services that are being planned for the New Year

May your church be the body of Christ on earth - a channel of your love, getting alongside people in need, people sad, lonely, abused, exploited and marginalised, and proclaiming the Gospel of salvation.

Grant the Church your protection. May she speak truth to power and give her the opportunities to make Christ known that lives may be transformed, and your Kingdom grow in all sorts of wonderful ways, to your praise and glory. Amen

## **Pray for Individuals**

We name those we know within our family, circle of friends and neighbours who need to know God's presence, his healing and his peace.

We remember Roger and Jean's family and friends.

We pray for all who are ill and in pain, for those who are sad and hurt, for those in hospital and for those who are convalescing.

We pray for those who face the new year without hope.

May we offer gentle support to those in trouble, sensitive encouragement to those in need and strength and support to those in weakness.

We pray for our Anna Chaplains, Janice and Mary, for all their work supporting and encouraging the members of our church family who are blessed with the gift of years.

Dear God,  
at the beginning of this New Year  
we remember with thanksgiving  
the ways you have been present with us in the year past -  
in times of fun and laughter, as well as tears and sorrow.

And as we look forward to 2025  
not knowing what the future may bring,  
we do so in hopeful anticipation  
mindful of your promise to be with us always,  
in your Son and by your Spirit.

We pray that your ways of peace, justice and love  
may be known on the earth as in Heaven.

May we be witnesses of your love in our lives  
and through the life of the church,  
so that the light of hope shines brightly into the darkness of the world.

In Jesus name,  
Amen

