

PRAYER DIARY

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2023



Diocese of
Leicester

Launde Abbey is a retreat house in the heart of the country with God at its centre

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Launde Abbey, East Norton
Leicestershire LE7 9XB

SEPTEMBER

- 4: QUIET DAY with David Harknett
- 8-10: THE JESUS PRAYER with Chris Webb
- 12-15: REFORESTING THE SOUL with Andrew Mayes
- 21: RURAL MISSION HUB

OCTOBER

- 2: QUIET DAY with Rosie Feuell
- 2-4: FOLLOWING JESUS AMONGST THE POTS AND PANS with Mike Harrison
- 14: QUIET DAY with Adrian Chatfield
- 23-26: CONTEMPLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY with Morna Simpson

NOVEMBER

- 6: QUIET DAY with Catherine Lomas
- 10-12: THE FACE OF LOVE with Sister Rachel Overton
- 20-23: BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING with Roy Searle
- 27-30: ADVENT RETREAT with Chris Webb

DECEMBER

- 4: QUIET DAY with Charles Dobbin
- 4-7: STILL BEFORE CHRISTMAS with Emily Owen
- 4-8: ICON PAINTING RETREAT with Peter Murphy

© Matt Musgrave



FOREWORD FROM THE BISHOP OF LOUGHBOROUGH



It is a joy to introduce you, my sisters and brothers, to the Autumn 2023 prayer diary. As you may know, one of the practices of Intercultural Worshipping Communities is to

invite people to pray in the language closest to their heart, as a sign that people can bring their truest and deepest selves to God.

At a recent school visit, I invited the children to pray the Lord's Prayer, while I led it in Malayalam. As the children were leaving, a 10-year-old girl looked up to me and said "I understood what you prayed". Her parents, she explained were from Kerala as well, so she was familiar with Malayalam.

But, her words also spoke to me a deeper truth: God understands what we pray. There is space in the heart of God for all our prayers – those we speak aloud, and those we dare not utter. God speaks all languages, and knows the our hearts, even when we do not.

In the psalms, we see what Walter Brueggemann calls psalms of orientation, where everything seems to make sense in the writer's life; psalms



The Lord's Prayer

Being made one by the power of the Spirit, let us pray with confidence and in the language closest to our heart as our Saviour has taught us

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses; as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Notre Père...
Baba wa...
我們在天上的父...
Nna Anyi...
Ojce Nasz...
Vater unser...
Ein Tad...
Wo tye...
Baba mu...
پدر...
Padre nuestro...
Πάτερ ημών...
Отче наш...
Pater noster...

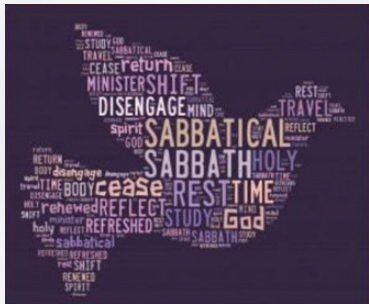
of disorientation, which capture feelings of helplessness, confusion and terror; and psalms of new orientation, which are filled with gratitude for God's grace in lifting the psalmist out of despair and danger. If these are the inspired prayers of the people of God, then we can have faith that we can bring all of our selves and the messiness of our lives to God.

So, I hope as we pray together over the next few months, whichever season you find yourself in, that we are able to pray with honesty and with openness, confident that we are seen, heard and known by our Creator and Redeemer.

I'm so grateful for your prayers for me and please know that I pray for you all regularly.

+ Saju Loughborough

+Saju Muthalaly
Bishop of Loughborough



SABBATICAL REFLECTION

My first sabbatical was 13 years ago when I was a parish priest, and my children were still quite young. We were able to enjoy an extended family holiday together, camping beside a river in France. Life slowed to the pace of the river and I discovered a new rhythm.

Now my children are all adults and busy with their own adventures, so I had to find a different way of slowing down and re-learning how to 'be'. This came from a surprising source. I travelled to the West coast of Canada and spent a month in Vancouver. Each morning I cycled to a college and spent time reading and writing.

I have always enjoyed doing little bits of writing but this is the first time that I have written at length. And I found that the more I got into it, the more I felt my sense of vocation being renewed. I realised that I wasn't writing for other people, rather I was writing for myself. This was my way of discerning what God is doing in me, and therefore my way of 'being'.

So the fruit of this sabbatical is a book on intercultural church which will be published next year. But far more importantly, the fruit in me is a renewed sense of God's love, God's calling, God's gifting, and a desire to go on serving.

My on-going prayers for you all.

+ Martyn Leicester

+ Martyn
Bishop of Leicester



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WELCOME

Welcome to the new edition of the diocesan prayer diary, which takes us through from the thanksgiving of Creationtide and Harvest, through the Season of Remembrance, on into Advent and finally to the season of Christmas when we celebrate the miracle of our Saviour's birth.

If you know of anyone else who would like to receive a paper copy of this publication, then please contact James Pickersgill, the Bishop's Chaplain, as below. It can also be downloaded from www.leicester.anglican.org/everyday-faith/calendar-or-prayer/

Every day we pray for Bishops and our sisters and brothers in Christ around the world using the Anglican Cycle of Prayer and the Porvoo prayer calendar (www.porvoochurches.org) – these are included in italics at the bottom of each Sunday. You will also find one of our own partner dioceses featured throughout. The Anglican Communion have changed their practice and now only include the name of the diocese, asking us to pray for the people, clergy and Bishops of the named dioceses. The names of Diocesan Bishops in Great Britain have been added.

The key to the parish entries is as follows:
C = Clergy; R = Reader; PA = Pastoral Assistant; Pio = Pioneer Minister;
AM = Associate Minister; Evng = Evangelist;
PTO = Permission to Officiate.



Do let the Bishop's Chaplain know if you've got a story to feature on a Sunday in a future edition – with as much notice as possible please!

Email:

bishops.chaplain@leicestercofe.org
or phone 0116 270 3390 or send it
c/o Bishop's Lodge, 12 Springfield Road,
Leicester LE2 3BD.

We are very grateful as always to Revd Canon Brian Davis for his work on gathering parish prayer requests, to Peter Collett and Florence Gildea for their on-going assistance, to Beth Cluer for much of the imagery and to all our contributors in this edition – thank you so much!



Ordination of Priests
Saturday 1st July 2023
at St Mary's, Melton Mowbray



Ordination of Deacons
Sunday 2nd July 2023
at All Saints', Loughborough



God our Father, Lord of all the world,
through your Son you have called us
into the fellowship of your universal Church:
hear our prayer for all your faithful people
that in their vocation and ministry
each may be an instrument of your love,
and give to your servants recently ordained
the needful gifts of grace;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

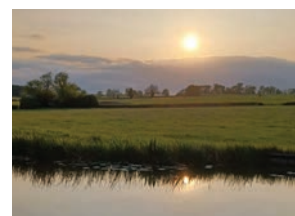
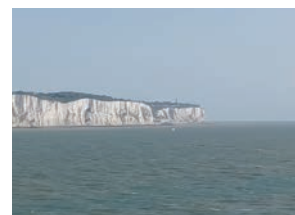
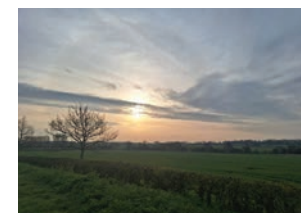
Cricket on retreat with the Priests and Deacons at Launde Abbey 2023!

Creationtide or the Season of Creation is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1st September to 4th October, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life.

Resources available:
Creationtide resources | The Church of England
Doxecology – Resound Worship
Eco Church – An A Rocha UK Project

*Creator God, you made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for your gracious providing
may we cherish and respect this planet and its peoples,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen*

Zaki-Biam (Nigeria)



SUNDAY 3RD SEPT CREATIONTIDE



USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel) 2023 conference

The theme of USPG's conference in June was Justice and the Church. Alongside partnering organisations and invited speakers, we came together for two days to explore notions of justice around the Anglican world. What does justice mean? How might we recognise it? How do we seek God's justice on earth for all, whilst acknowledging the huge diversity within our churches and communities?

We explored in detail three themes; Racial Justice; Gender Justice and Climate Justice. These were supported with Bible studies led by Revd. Canon Smitha Prasadam, now Bishop for Huddersfield, who championed women's vocational pathways for flourishing.

We were fascinated by the input from Professor Sarojini Nadar about the intersections of gender and religion and the extent to which religion holds resources for, and impedes, social justice. A challenge to our thinking came from Revd Dr Al Barrett with a reimagining of the focus on the 5 Marks of Mission. He explored long term intergenerational community building with neighbours in our community, and pursuing racial and environmental justice within and beyond the church community.

An inspirational conference which gave us fresh vision as to how the Church might be renewed! This gives thought for our prayer life in the



coming months
- USPG has been supporting justice for women in

Zambia and combatting gender-based violence since 2012 and the Zambian church sees continuing success in their work.

Let us pray for all who are engaged in promoting and fighting for gender justice. May they be encouraged by all that has been achieved and continue to look forward with confidence and wisdom.

The season of Creation is celebrated in September when we pray and respond to the cry of creation and the ecumenical family around the world unites to listen and care for our common home, the Oikos of God. This year the theme is "Let Peace and Justice Flow".

We pray:

Creator of Love, thank you for the gift of life, which we share with all creation. Call us again to safeguard everything you have made, for earth and all its fulness is yours. Amen.

Peter Yates – Bishop's Nominee

Sheila Yates – Leicester Diocesan Representative

The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean

Church of England: Diocese of Salisbury,

Bishop Stephen Lake, Bishop Andrew Rumsey,

Bishop Karen Gorham

Church in Wales: Diocese of St Asaph,

Bishop Gregory Cameron

MON 4 SEPT The Diocese of Kiteto

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Eastern Zambia (Province of Central Africa)

TUES 5 SEPT Mountsorrel Christ Church & St Peter; St Leonard's, Swithland

Colin Resch (C), Mel Rowley (AM), Helen Hodson (R-PTO), Edmund Stacey (R-PTO), Linda Vesty & Alison White (Children & Family Workers), Kat Jenkins (Youth Worker)

Pray that relationships formed during Summer events in Mountsorrel and a series of successful concerts, open days and events in St Leonard's will lead to church growth; that the Angel Festival at St Leonard's (1-3 Dec) will bring a joyous start to Advent; and that the Christmas Tree & Crib Festival at Christ Church (8-10 Dec) will help us to connect with more of our local community.

Northern Zambia (Province of Central Africa)

WED 6 SEPT Quorn

In vacancy (C), Dawn Daly (R), St Bartholomew's CE Primary School; Rawlins College (Academy)

We give thanks for the continued flourishing of our united church and for our Methodist ministers and visiting Anglican ministers. Please pray that our new Garden of Remembrance will soon be installed and available to serve the community.

Zanzibar (Tanzania)

THURS 7 SEPT Shephed & Oaks in Charnwood

Vacancy, John Bird (C), Michael Torne (R), Richard Rock (R), Diane Melton (PA), Adrienne Saunders (PA) St Botolph's CE Primary School; Newcroft Primary School.

We are a benefice of two parishes and in vacancy for 12 months. There are no church wardens in one church but we are working together by sharing services on the 5th Sunday. Please pray for us as we explore what a Minster Community could look like in our area.

Zaria (Nigeria)

FRI 8 SEPT Woodhouse & Woodhouse Eaves

Lisa Temperley-Barnes (C), Claire Zanker (R), Di Rhydings - Reader in training. St Leonard's CE Primary School, Swithland; St Paul's CE Primary School

We give thanks for all the creative opportunities to witness to Christ and pray to win more souls for Jesus.

Central Zimbabwe (Province of Central Africa)

SAT 9 SEPT World Anti-Suicide Day 10th Sept 2023

God of all mercy, from whose love nothing can separate us, we pray this day for all whose lives have been touched by suicide, for those who have died by suicide and those who have attempted it. We pray for comfort in the hardest of places, for courage when putting one foot in front of the other seems impossible. May your healing balm be on all those who are hurting. We pray for all mental health professionals and volunteers who support those in distress, that you might give us the courage and wisdom to be your listening ear, your hands, and your heart for others. Amen.

Zonkwa (Nigeria)

SUNDAY 10 SEPT EDUCATION SUNDAY



The Church of England's vision for education focuses on four main themes: wisdom, hope, community and dignity. Since the pandemic, there is a deep sense of hopelessness for many working in education. A generation of children and young people have been impacted in ways we are only just beginning to understand. School staff see not only a loss in children's learning but also damage to their mental health and well-being, in their social and relationship skills and in their hopes for the future.

As they continue to face the impact of the pandemic, our school communities need to hear the message of Christian hope more than ever. Though the task of recovery can often feel impossible, there is still hope to be found in Jesus.

We can take encouragement from those who have gone before us in such testing times. Medieval Europe experienced similar devastations in the form of plagues to the coronavirus pandemic. A young woman, Julian of Norwich, lived through those difficult times in the 14th century, often in seclusion in a small room next to a church. She experienced sickness herself and at one point was expected to die. As she lay ill, she experienced several visions showing Christ suffering. These visions,

she believed, showed God's great love for her and for us. When she recovered, she wrote about this love and shared her message of hope:

"All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well".

Through times of trial the Christian story remains one of hope.

Please pray for:

* Our schools, their leaders, the staff, governors, children and their families.

* Pray that they will hear and be comforted by God's message of hope in Christ Jesus.

Carolyn Lewis

Diocesan Director of Education

The Church of Ireland

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:

Diocese of Ribe, Bishop Elob Westergaard

Church of England: Diocese of Bath and Wells, Bishop Michael Beasley, Bishop Ruth Worsley

MON 11 SEPT Diocese of Wyoming

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Zululand (Southern Africa)

TUES 12 SEPT Thorpe Acre with Dishley

Tim Day (C), Jenny Bickley (PA-PTO)

Pray for those people completing the Alpha course that their faith will develop and the church will support them. Pray for our area as we approach the start of Minster Community discussions later this year.

Aba (Nigeria)

WED 13 SEPT Deanery of North West Leicestershire

Area Dean: Gill Pinnington; Lay Chair: Noreen Mewies

We give thanks for our 29 churches and the communities they represent. We pray for all those still in vacancy, for their PCCs, that they would lead their churches with love and confidence in Christ. We pray for new life in the Minster Community Process.

Aba Ngwa North (Nigeria)

THURS 14 SEPT Holy Cross Day

PTO clergy in Deanery of North West Leicestershire:

Jennie Drew, Barry Dryden, Paul Harris, Julie-Ann Heath, Margaret Jacques, Trevor Parkerson, Terri Skinner, Alison Thorp, Edwina Wallace & Geoffrey Willett

Almighty God, who in the passion of your blessed Son made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace: grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer for his sake; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Abakaliki (Nigeria)

FRI 15 SEPT Broom Leys

In vacancy. Jenny Holland (PA)

Please pray for this Benefice now in vacancy. Pray for those who will have the responsibility for finding a new priest, and for those who will carry the benefice through the vacancy.

Aberdeen and Orkney (Scottish Episcopal Church)

SAT 16 SEPT

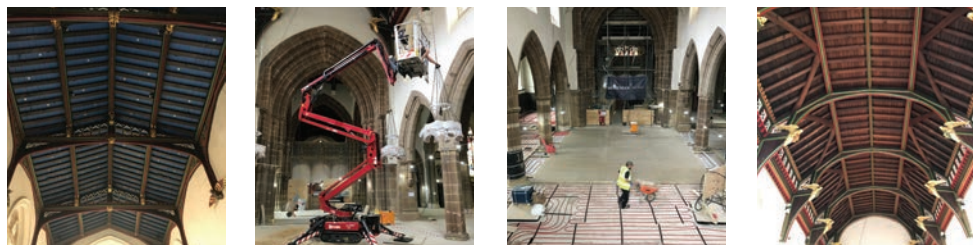
3 Key Questions - Deepening Disciples

Our first key question as a Diocese is: How are you growing, and enabling others to grow in the depth of their discipleship?

Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ,
For all the benefits which you have given us,
For all the pains and insults which you have borne for us.
Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,
May we know you more clearly,
Love you more dearly,
And follow you more nearly, day by day. **Amen.**

Aberdeen and Orkney (Scottish Episcopal Church)

SUNDAY 17 SEPT LEICESTER CATHEDRAL REVEALED



The Leicester Cathedral Revealed project is restoring and renewing the Cathedral so it can be its very best as a place of worship, heritage, pilgrimage, hospitality, learning, sanctuary and celebration.

The existing cathedral building is being transformed with a new stone floor, level throughout and with energy-efficient underfloor heating; replacement of failing infrastructure such as boilers and the electrical system; installation of new lighting and AV; restoration of key architectural features and repair of much that has deteriorated, particularly stonework and décor.

The project is also creating a distinct new extension to the Cathedral - a visitor and learning centre to be known as The Chapter House - on the footprint of the former 1930s Song School, thereby preserving the open space of Cathedral Gardens. It will have a confident contemporary appearance and provide a new orientation/exhibition gallery, hospitality and learning spaces, WCs, offices and storage.

Continued good progress is being made. Inside the Cathedral, lighting and heating systems have been replaced and redecoration works completed. Work is underway on installing the new stone floor and putting back various wooden panelling and screens. Construction of

the double basement for the new Chapter house will enable above ground works to get underway in the autumn.

The Cathedral is due to reopen at the end of November 2023 and then the new Chapter House in the summer of 2024.

Please pray for:

- Cathedral staff and volunteers involved with the project as they prepare the building for re-opening
- Contractor and consultant team undertaking the complex building works
- Ongoing efforts to secure all the required funding to complete the project

Simon Bentley

Project Director for Leicester Cathedral Revealed
simon.bentley@leicestercofe.org

Province of the Indian Ocean

Church of England:

*Diocese of Sheffield, Bishop Pete Wilcox,
Bishop Sophie Jelley*

Church of Greenland:

*(Diocese of Greenland within the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark)
Bishop Paneeraq Siegstad Munk*

MON 18 SEPT Diocese of Trichy

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Abyei (South Sudan)

TUES 19 SEPT Youth Mental Health Day

Headstrong is an online space created by two Christian charities, Youthscape and the Mind & Soul Foundation, to support teenagers' mental health and wellbeing:

<https://www.youthscape.co.uk/services/headstrong>

Accra (Province of West Africa)

WED 20 SEPT Coalville with Bardon Hill & Ravenstone

Gill Pinnington, Rhianne O'Rourke (C), Geoff Pinnington (C)

All Saints CE Primary School, Coalville

Please pray for our finances and for good relationships.

We give thanks for our Admin Support member of staff, Emmam as she works with all those who rent out our rooms and as a support to the Area Dean.

Adelaide (Australia)

THURS 21 SEPT Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Almighty God, who by thy blessed Son didst call Matthew from the receipt of custom to be an Apostle and Evangelist: Grant us grace to forsake all covetous desires and inordinate love of riches, and to follow the same thy Son Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

UN International Peace Day

International Day of Peace | United Nations

God of all history, for millennia, you have wept over wave upon wave of human conflict, fuelled by the cravings you sought to free us from in your Son Jesus Christ – Cravings for power and praise, envy and greed. Forgive us, we pray, and help us to work for the world promised by the prophet Micah where “Everyone will live in peace and prosperity, enjoying their own grapevines and fig trees, for there will be nothing to fear.” We pray this especially for the people of the Ukraine, Syria, Mali, Niger, Myanmar, Burkina Faso, and all other countries suffering the many traumas of war. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Mthatha (Southern Africa)

Afikpo (Nigeria)

FRI 22 SEPT St. Michael and All Angels, Ravenstone

Please pray for the repairs and reordering of our church. We rejoice that ministry has been going on from this church for at least 700 years, and we pray for the celebrations with our community throughout the year.

North Africa (Province of Alexandria)

SAT 23 SEPT

3 Key Questions – Deepening Disciples

Our second key question as a Diocese is: How are you enabling growth in the numbers of disciples of Jesus?

Heavenly Father

Open my heart to hear the Gospel and grant me the confidence to proclaim the Good News to others

Pour out your Spirit, so that I might be strengthened to go forth

and witness to the Gospel in my everyday life through my words and actions. Amen.

Agra (North India)

SUNDAY 24 SEPT



Change, whether personal, cultural, organisational, or geopolitical, is rarely easy to deal with. I am

one for familiarity – a change in scenery or in routine strikes dread and doubt in me. Yet, on the other side of change, I don't think I've ever regretted the fact that not everything was within my control. In fact, the leaps of faith have been the moments in which I've grown the most.

Sister Joan Chittister writes:

“Risk, the willingness to accept an unknown future with open hands and a happy heart, is the key to the adventures of the soul. Risk stretches us to discover the rest of ourselves – our creativity [and] our courage.”

This is relevant not only because our society feels like it has been undergoing momentous changes in recent years, but because the shape and form of the Church of England across the country, the Anglican Communion and right here in Leicester, is also shifting. That is an emotional and spiritual journey as much as it is a logistical and practical one. Like grief, change brings a series of emotions, ranging from denial to anger to acceptance. The Bible, itself a story of an ongoing journey of salvation, from a garden to a heavenly city certainly bears witness to that. Think of the Israelites in the wilderness, saying they wish they had remained enslaved in Egypt because at least the menu was more varied; or how Jesus begged more than once for ‘this cup’ – the prospect of his suffering and death – to be put aside. Change, even for the people of God, even for the Son of God himself, is no trivial matter.

The changes God invites us into are as much about faith, hope and discipleship as about demographics and finances. That is why we, in Leicester Diocese, call this journey Shaped



By God Together. As we seek the Kingdom of God in our city and county, it is our prayer that through and in the midst of change, you will know God, one another and yourselves more deeply. That has certainly been the experience of those who have facilitated Shaped By God Together conversations, and although change is never easy, simple or straightforward, they have been blessed to see creativity and courage abound.

Please pray for:

- All those involved in Minster Community conversations – that the process would be full of hope and a sense of God's guidance.
- Our Bishops and Archbishops – that they would shepherd us well through times of change and keep us always pointed towards Jesus Christ.

Florence Gildea

Social Policy Advisor to The Bishop of Leicester

The Church of Ireland

Church in Wales:

Diocese of Swansea and Brecon,
Bishop John Lomas

Church of England: Diocese of Leicester,
Bishop Martyn Snow, Bishop Saju Mathalaly

MON 25 SEPT Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

Pease pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Aguata (Nigeria)

TUES 26 SEPT European Day of Languages

Bishop's Leadership Team at the Stablehouse, North Kilworth

Ahoad (Nigeria)

WED 27 SEPT Bishop's Leadership Team at the Stablehouse, North Kilworth

St. Peter's, Bardon Hill

We give thanks for our wonderful Gardening Club who meet each week to garden, pray and encourage one another.

We pray for our open days that we would be a blessing to our dispersed community.

Aipo Rongo (Papua New Guinea)

THURS 28 SEPT Bishop's Leadership Team at the Stablehouse, North Kilworth

Hugglescote with Donington, Ellistown & Snibston

Laura Jackson, Steve O'Rourke (C), Christine Hall (R-PTO), Trevelyn Hodson (R-PTO)

Please pray for the setting up of a Parent and Toddler Group at both St John's Hugglescote and St Christopher's as a way of connecting with families in the new houses being built. Please pray for more volunteers to come forward.

Ajayi Crowther (Nigeria)

FRI 29 SEPT Michael and All Angels

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Akobo (South Sudan)

SAT 30 SEPT

Loving Service - 3 Key Questions

Our third key question as a Diocese is: How are you serving your community, and enabling others to love and serve those around them?

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it:

a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;

a world where everyone can enjoy the riches of creation;

a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.

Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Akoko (Nigeria)

SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Two of our strategic priorities – Intercultural Communities and Reconciling Communities – come together in Black History Month, a time when we can pray for the evils and injustices of the past, the ways in which many of us (writing as a White British woman) have benefited from the legacy of the transatlantic slave trade, and for a future forged from faithful discipleship rather than prejudice.

Last year, research into the accounts of the Queen Anne Bounty – a forerunner of the Church Commissioners – found over £720 million in today's money was made from investing in transatlantic chattel slavery. At a recent exhibition at Lambeth Palace was the 'Slave Bible', a highly redacted translation from 1808 with the Exodus narrative and any references to freedom cut out, and passages about submission emphasised. Even during the Windrush era, many parish churches turned away Black worshippers – leaving them to set up their own. In such shameful ways, the Church of England has had a profound impact on Black History and failed to bear witness to a God whose Spirit is at work in all nations, who has made everyone in His image, and who lifts the downtrodden.

The Church Commissioners' decision to set aside £100 million of its investment fund to social impact areas, with the profits going towards areas still affected by the legacy of chattel slavery, is an honest reckoning with the past and prayerful repentance that makes a fairer, intercultural future possible.

Let us pray for:

- God to challenge us where we are guilty of prejudice and discrimination
- Our Intercultural Worshipping Communities – that they would be places of mutual learning, friendship and encouragement
- For the work of DFEMA and the Racial Equity Unit in our diocese

Florence Gildea

Social Policy Advisor to The Bishop of Leicester

The Nippon Sei Ko Kai

Church of England: Diocese of Liverpool,
Bishop John Perumbalath, Bishop Beverley Mason

Church in Wales: Diocese of Monmouth,
Bishop Cherry Vann

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:
Diocese of Haderslev, Bishop Marianne Christiansen

MON 2 OCT The Diocese of Kiteto

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Akoko Edo (Nigeria)

TUES 3 OCT Ibstock with Heather

Andy Hartropp (C), Carole Oswin (R), Claire Hartropp (R), Judith Coleman (R)
St Denys CE Infant School, Ibstock

Pray for all who help manage the running of our church communities, especially as we have only one churchwarden at Ibstock and none at Heather.

Pray for wisdom as we move towards Minster Community discussions

Akot (South Sudan)

WED 4 OCT Feast of St Francis

Pray for all Franciscans worldwide and for The Third Order of the Society of St Francis and giving thanks for all they do which is often unseen by many.

*O God, you ever delight to reveal yourself to the childlike and lowly of heart:
grant that, following the example of the blessed Francis, we may count the wisdom of this world
as foolishness and know only Jesus Christ and him crucified, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

Akure (Nigeria)

THURS 5 OCT Whitwick, Thringstone & Swannington

Darren Walker (C), Terri Skinner (C-PTO), Brian Skinner (R), Carol Albrighton (R-PTO), Barry Albrighton (R-PTO)
**Swannington C of E Primary, St. John the Baptist C of E Primary, Thringstone County Primary,
New Swannington Primary and Griffydham Primary School.**

Please pray for us as we search new ways to connect with our villages, including our new Muddy Church that Whitwick are planning for this coming Autumn. Please pray for our continuing outreach in Thringstone especially our after-school club and our Open the Book team that go into our local schools.

Alabama (Episcopal Church)

FRI 6 OCT The Woodfield Team

**In vacancy, Rick Tett (C), Debbie Kent (R), Glennys Kerr (R-PTO), Norma Morris-Chapman (R-PTO),
Derek Tomlin (R-PTO), Elisabeth Harrison (Evng), David Harrison (Evng), Judy Selby (PA), Joan Smith (PA-PTO)**
**St John Moore CE Primary School, Appleby Magna
Snarestone, Measham & Packington CE Primary Schools**

During the past six weeks, five candidates for confirmation have been attending classes – please pray for them and their families as they prepare for confirmation in October.

Alaska (Episcopal Church)

SAT 7 OCT

*Eternal God, You crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:
grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being:
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and forever, Amen.*

Saint Albans (Church of England)

TOGETHER LEICESTER

Homeless Sunday 2023

By its very existence, World Homeless Day demonstrates that homelessness knows no borders, it exists all around the world, in all of our cities and local communities. On Homeless Sunday, we choose to reflect on and pray for those affected by homelessness, in all its forms.

The annual rough sleeping statistics for England, found an estimated 3,069 sleeping rough and a further 99,270 households staying in temporary accommodation, including 125,000 children.¹

Homelessness is about so much more than the absence of somewhere, or someone. Just as a home is so much more than four walls, or simply a roof over your head. To be homeless is not just about a lack of physical security, it also carries with it a sense of powerlessness and frustration, often a feeling of being invisible and unheard.

Pray for every man, woman, and child in our city who has no place to call home. Pray that they would be connected to the resources they need to meet the most basic and essential needs and find access to shelter, adequate food, and health care.

In 2018, the Diocese of Leicester, led passionately by Revd Canon Alison Adams, developed a Homelessness Charter. The charter brings people, organisations, statutory bodies and business together across the city around a shared vision and a set of values and principles used by all of those working to prevent homelessness, and to support those affected by it. One of our key values is to ensure that we listen to, and include voices of lived experience – it is a golden thread through all of our work.

There are many ways to help as individuals, such as volunteering time, donating to one of our

wonderful local charities but ultimately we are stronger when we work together. We have some outstanding services in our city and inspirational people who are dedicated to helping others every day in challenging circumstances. One example of our coordinated approach is our city-wide timetable of meals for people affected by homelessness, which has been designed to ensure that there is food available every day of the week, including weekends and public holidays.

To find out more about the ways in which you can help, please do get in touch rebecca.pawley@togetherleicester.org.uk and visit our website to pledge your support to the Charter, which will ensure you receive our regular e-newsletter <https://www.leicesterhomelessnesscharter.co.uk/pledge-your-support>

Rebecca Pawley
Project Coordinator
Leicester's Homelessness Charter
Together Leicester



The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and The Middle East

Church of England: Diocese of Truro, Bishop Philip Mounstephen, Bishop Hugh Nelson

Church of Norway: Diocese of Tönsberg, Bishop Jan Otto Myrseth

Church of Sweden: Diocese of Strängnäs, Bishop Johan Dalman

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Prisons Week – www.prisonswalk.org

Albany (Episcopal Church)

If you, or someone you love, would like support with their mental health from a Christian perspective, the Mind and Soul Foundation has lots of helpful information: <https://www.mindandsoulfoundation.org/>

Prisons Week – www.prisonswalk.org

Algonia (Canada)

Sue Field, Tim Phillips (C), Sue Brown (R-PTO), Stephen Clowes (R), Carol Eyley (R), Kathy Hart (PA-PTO), Steph Whiten (PA), Judith Lewis (R), Andy Smith (R)

Viscount Beaumont's School, Coleorton, St Hardulph's School, Breedon on the Hill, Newbold CE Primary School

We give thanks for the appointment of our Team Rector, Rev Canon Sue Field, and we pray for the fruitful ministry of our churches in Ashby, Breedon, Coleorton, Isley Walton, Staunton Harold and Worthington, and for deepening ties with our CofE (and other) Schools.

Prisons Week – www.prisonswalk.org

All Saints (Kenya)

In vacancy, Blossom Thompson (PA) Blackfordby & Woodville CE Primary Schools

We give thanks for all priests who are leading our services during this challenging interregnum. We pray for unity in our parish, also for strength and new vision to carry on in such a difficult time.

Prisons Week – www.prisonswalk.org

Aluakluak (South Sudan)

Prisons Week – www.prisonswalk.org

Amazonia (Brazil)

Diocesan Strategic Priorities – Intercultural Communities

One of our priorities is to develop worshipping communities where people of different cultures can learn from and bless one another, so we can better serve the God of all peoples, all languages and all nations.

God of all peoples, all nations, all cultures, Forgive us for where we mistake 'The way we do things around here' with Your way, and 'people who look like us', with your people. Forgive and free us of our prejudices, help us to seek your face in those whom we have othered, and be open to blessings from those we have cursed. Heal and strengthen and equip your body to love and serve you, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Amichi (Nigeria)

SUNDAY 15 OCT WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE



THE INTERNATIONAL PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth
 Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust
 Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace
 Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe

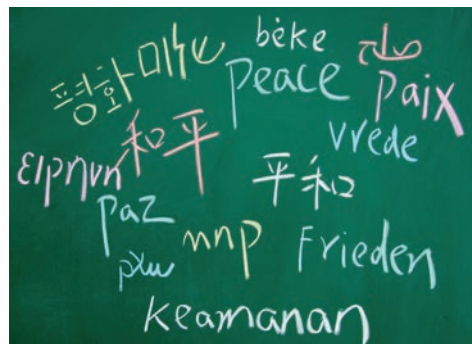
The call went on to say "Patience will need to be an essential feature of this united act of prayer so that we may all not only learn from the past errors but also be open to fresh insights which the unprecedented modern situation demands". Sadly, these words are still pertinent today, in the third decade of the 21st century. Prayer and study during the Week has remained a key feature of WPWP.

Peter Yates

Global Affairs – Social Responsibility Panel

Parish of St Mary & St Michaels'

Broughton Astley and Croft with Stoney Stanton



The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the + blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

The Anglican Church of Kenya

Church of Sweden:

Diocese of Växjö, Bishop Fredrik Modéus

Church of England: Diocese of Oxford,

Bishop Steven Croft, Bishop Olivia Graham, Bishop Gavin Collins, Bishop Alan Wilson

The Week of Prayer for World Peace was started as a Christian initiative in 1974. It soon became an interfaith activity, and now welcomes everyone, of all faiths or none. Dr Edward Carpenter, former Dean of Westminster Abbey, established the guiding principle of the Week of Prayer with the words "The peace of the world must be prayed for by the faiths of the world". This continues to be its basis today.

"Where people are praying for peace, the cause of peace is strengthened by their very act of prayer, for they are themselves becoming immersed in the spirit of peace" wrote George Macleod, founder of the Iona Community. He was one of a number of faith leaders who in 1974 signed 'A Call to Prayer for World Peace'. They wrote 'Believing that God is calling us to pray with new purpose and deeper understanding for peace and justice among all people, we invite our fellow believers of all faiths to join in a Week of Prayer For World Peace'.

MON 16 OCT Diocese of Trichy

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

The Week of Prayer for World Peace:

Day 1: Uniting Rather Than Dividing People

Help us to work with all people towards a peaceful world.

Give us Lord God, a vision of our world as your love would make it; a world where the weak are protected and none go hungry or poor; a world where the benefits of civilised life are shared and everyone can enjoy them; a world where different races, nations and cultures live in mutual respect; a world where peace is built with justice and justice is guided by love; and give us the inspiration and courage to build it.

Trevor Williams, Corrymeela Community

Amritsar (North India)

TUES 17 OCT

The Week of Prayer for World Peace:

Day 2: Education For a Culture of Peace

Let us pray for all involved in learning and teaching for peace.

Teach me the way of life,
 not a life that is mean and narrow
 But a life that is rich and full and free,
 a finding of strength, a sharing of wealth,
 A reaching for joy at its fullest
 and generous, generous always.
 Teach me the way of peace.

Sue Gilmurray

Andaman and Car Nicobar Islands (North India)

WED 18 OCT Luke the Evangelist

Anti-slavery Day – <https://www.antislaveryday.com> (see article on Sun 22 Oct 23 page 21)

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Week of Prayer for World Peace:

Day 3: World Health

We grieve for those who have lost loved ones during the pandemic; for those separated from family and friends for months at a time, for livelihoods adversely affected, and for those whose mental and physical health has suffered. Be alongside them in their sorrow, and as the world returns to some sort of normality may they not be forgotten. Make us more compassionate and loving people to care for each other as you would have us do. Amen

Susan Gale – Methodist Peace Fellowship

Saint Andrews Dunkeld and Dunblane (Scotland)

THURS 19 OCT Kibworth with Smeeton Westerby & Saddington

The Week of Prayer for World Peace:

Day 4: A World Free of Nuclear Weapons

We pray for the wisdom of leaders to rid the world of weapons of mass destruction.

Lord God, remember Christ, your Son, who is peace itself,
and who has washed away our hatred with his blood.

Because you love all peoples, look with mercy on all who are engaged in battle.

Banish the violence and evil within all combatants so that, one day,

we may all deserve to be called your sons and your daughters.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Central and South Angola (Angola)

FRI 20 OCT Cornerstone

The Week of Prayer for World Peace:

Day 5: Environmental Impact

Let us pray for guidance to use the world's resources wisely for peaceful ends.

Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace.

May all peoples on the earth become as brothers and sisters.

May longed for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all.

Pope John Paul II

Ankole (Uganda)

SAT 21 OCT

The Week of Prayer for World Peace:

Day 6: Effect of Conflict on Children

We pray for children and young people caught up in wars.

With the continuing conflict in Ukraine and so many other areas of our world we pray for an end to cycles of grief and trauma. And we pray, O Lord, for a just and peaceful resolution of the conflicts

Diocesan Strategic Priorities – Intercultural Communities

We have made Intergenerational Communities a priority within the Shaped By God Together process to inspire, equip, and support local leaders to facilitate intergenerational worship experiences, learning spaces and serving opportunities. This will, we believe, bless not just children and young people, but those of all ages.

God of all generations, who, in Christ, revealed yourself to Simeon and Anna and welcomed the little children, thank you that you make yourself known to us whatever our age or stage, and that you have made us with gifts to pass between generations.

Bless those who in our Diocese seek to bring together people of different ages to learn, love and serve well together. Help us to guide people on the way of Christ, no matter how far along they are on the journey. **Amen.**

North Ankole (Uganda)

SUNDAY 22 OCT THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE



The Week of Prayer for World Peace:

Day 7: Sanctuary

Let us remember those in need of refuge and safety.

All-loving, ever-present God, we pray for our neighbours – for the people we know and love, and for the people we have never met.

We pray for our neighbours – for the people across the street, and for the people on the other side of the world.

We pray for our neighbours – for the people who look and sound like us, and for the people who couldn't be more different.

We pray for our neighbours – for everyone who is struggling, for everyone who is being marginalised and oppressed.

Adapted from Tearfund

Anti-Slavery

Earlier this year, Bishop's Council agreed to adopt a Modern Slavery Statement for the diocese which covers how St Martin's House, Conference Centre and Lodge minimises its exposure to modern slavery in its supply chains, the inclusion of modern slavery in our safeguarding training, and the activities of Christians in Leicester and Leicestershire against Modern Slavery. But we need churches, church schools and individuals across the diocese to play their part in making sure they aren't purchasing items manufactured using exploited labour and that they know the signs of modern slavery and human trafficking so they can support someone who may be a victim of exploitation.

Anti-Slavery Day, October 18th, is a great opportunity to consider what you as a church

SUNDAY 22 OCT THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE (cont)



community could do to take a stand against modern slavery. The Walk Free Foundation estimates that, in 2021, 49.6 million people around the world were enslaved. Modern slavery takes many forms, including forced marriage, domestic servitude, labour exploitation and child labour, sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation and even organ harvesting.

High risk products include every day commodities such as coffee, tea, chocolate and clothes, and sectors such as hospitality, construction, seasonal farm work and social care.

If your church is having building work done, are you sure that the labourers are being fairly paid? Are the refreshments you serve after services Fairtrade? And are you confident talking to the children and young people about county lines?

There are practical steps you can take:

- Consider joining our ecumenical Facebook group Christians in Leicester and Leicestershire Against Modern Slavery: www.facebook.com/groups/cllams
- Sign up for one of the Clewer Initiative's online courses
- If you support a food bank, make sure there are posters about the signs of modern slavery and human trafficking displayed as well as information about the support available

- If you have any concerns about a possible case of modern slavery, call the Modern Slavery Helpline, 08000 121 700. You can also make a report to our Safeguarding team.

And much to pray about:

- Pray that those who find themselves coerced and exploited receive the help they need to find freedom and for a change in the hearts of the perpetrators of modern slavery.
- Pray that those in power, particularly those in Governmental and parliamentary positions, will use their authority to ensure victims of exploitation receive justice and mercy.
- Pray for those involved in anti-slavery activities within the church family.

Caroline Emberson

Chair of Christians in Leicester and Leicestershire Against Modern Slavery (CLLAMS)

The Anglican Church of Korea

Church of England: Diocese of Carlisle,
Bishop James Newcome,
Bishop Rob Saner-Haigh

Church of Norway: Diocese of Stavanger,
Bishop Anne Lise Adnoy

MON 23 OCT Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Northwest Ankole (Uganda)

TUES 24 OCT United Nations Day

United Nations Day | United Nations

Begins on the Sunday of the week of 24th October (UN Day) every year. It is a week of awareness and action on issues such as injustice, the environment and poverty.

South Ankole (Uganda)

WED 25 OCT Guthlaxton Deanery

Area Dean: Jane Micklethwaite; **Assistant Area-Dean:** Nigel Byard (Lutterworth); **Lay Chair:** Phil Leech.
PTO clergy in Deanery of Guthlaxton: Terry Colling, Myrtle Cook, Mick Gillespie, Victor Goodman, David Hebblewhite, Andrew Micklethwaite, Paula Oxley & Andy Rhoades.

Give thanks for God's grace as faithful churchwardens, PCCs and local ministry teams seek to grow His Kingdom in their communities. Pray especially for vision and hope in the 22 parishes in vacancy and give thanks for those supporting them.

West Ankole (Uganda)

THURS 26 OCT Four Saints (Countesthorpe, Foston, Willoughby Waterleys & Peatling Magna)

Richard Reakes (C), Rod Allard (C PTO), Mick Gillespie (C PTO), June Ainge (R/Pio), Mike Oates (R), Lindsey Jelves (R), Helen Stokes (R), Gail Mackley (AM) & Jacqui McAughey (AM)

The Four Saints Benefice is welcoming two people into new roles: Jacqui McAughey has been recently licensed as an Associate Minister and Emma Adams as the new Benefice Administrator. We look forward to working alongside Jacqui and Emma.

Antananarivo (Indian Ocean)

FRI 27 OCT Hexagon Benefice

In vacancy, Stephen March (C)

Arnesby & Husbands Bosworth CE Primary Schools

The verse we are holding on to this year is "As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more." (Psalm 71:14) We set ourselves to hope and to praise. Jesus, build your Church.

Antsiranana (Indian Ocean)

SAT 28 OCT Simon and Jude, Apostles

Almighty God, who built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone: so join us together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

SUNDAY 29 OCT ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST – WORK IN PROGRESS



In the last edition, you may have read about the designs for the sculpture I'm working on for St Andrew's Church in Jarrom Street (behind the Leicester Royal Infirmary). I'm at the stage of 'roughing out' now: establishing the rough blocks of shapes, which will have to be refined gradually over the coming weeks. I thought I had

completed his curls (St John the Evangelist is always depicted in classical sculpture with curly hair), but the head is still too wide, and so I guess I'll have to destroy all the work I have done on the sides of his head, in order to get the shape right.

Recently, I've had great joy carving the expansive curves of the tendrils of the vine. St John records Jesus as saying in Chapter 15, 'I am the True Vine; I am the vine, you are the branches.' Another key phrase is 'Abide in me, and I in you.' So I'm thinking (as I chip away) how am I 'in Him', and how is He in me? And, whatever am I carving this difficult wood for? And the answer is, precisely so that people (me too) will look at this and think about how they are in Christ, and He in them. So I chip away and say a few rounds of the Jesus Prayer ('Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me) just like an old monk in the Russian forests.

Sometimes, I have come across a hidden flaw in the timber, and a gaping hole is exposed. You can see this under the chin and at the top of the right hand. This is usually filled with wood filler, which is resin based. That is quite good, because the filler may be carved as well, though it will have to be stained or coloured to match the surrounding wood.

I have always admired the beauty of this yew wood, which lies principally in the glorious grain, which swirls around in waves.

When I eventually get round to applying a finish, the grain will be brought out, and we will be able to marvel at the perfection of a small part of God's creation, at the same time as we reflect on the way in which Jesus Christ inspired St John to see who and what he was: the True Vine and the Bread of Life. I am so enjoying carving (chip, chip).

Revd David H Clark

Hon. Assistant Priest, St Andrew's,
Jarrom Street, Leicester

The Anglican Church of Melanesia

Church of England:

*Diocese of Winchester,
vacancy – bishop of Winchester,
Bishop David Williams, Bishop Debbie Sellin*

Church of Norway:

*Diocese of Agder and Telemark,
Bishop Stein Reinertsen*

MON 30 OCT The Diocese of Kiteto

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Araucania (Chile)

TUES 31 OCT Blaby

Jane Micklethwaite (C)

Blaby Stokes CE Primary School

Give thanks for our Open Church ministry and developing links with schools. Pray for continued growth in discipleship and lay ministry.

Arctic (Canada)

WED 1 NOV All Saints' Day

*God of holiness, your glory is proclaimed in every age:
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,
inspire us to follow their example with boldness and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Broughton Astley & Croft with Stoney Stanton

In vacancy, Pauline Cummins, Associate Priest, Lester Halling (R), Peter Yates (R-PTO),

John Bass (PA), Victor Goodman (C-PTO)

Orchard Croft School, Broughton Astley

Manorfield School, Stoney Stanton, Croft CE Primary School

We give thanks for the generosity of volunteers in our parish. Please pray for continued unity in our parish and for insight and vision as we engage with our schools and local communities.

Argentina (South America)

THURS 2 NOV Upper Soar

Sister Liz Heaton (C)

Ullesthorpe CE Primary School

Give thanks for the successful Benefice worship pattern, enhancing worship and deepening relationships. Pray for the development of our 'Easter Experience' type resources that are planned for the three schools in the Benefice and the team of people who will facilitate this.

Northern Argentina (South America)

FRI 3 NOV Cosby & Whetstone & Narborough

In vacancy, Martin Stevenson (R-PTO), Eric Leese (R-PTO), Trevor Matthews (R-PTO)

St Peter's CE Primary School, Whetstone

Prayers for a time of discernment and growth during a period of interregnum. Please pray that God will guide the parishes.

Argyll and The Isles (Scotland)

SAT 4 NOV

Arizona (Episcopal Church)

International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians – please see article on page 45.

Talk Money Week – Nov 6 – 11 2023

The Bible frequently references money, and Jesus certainly didn't shirk from the topic. However, many of us find it a hard issue to engage with. We like to keep our affairs private and yet we can end up rather inexpertly trying to navigate systems and make choices which have a real impact – on our lives and those of other people. At a personal level, the stress can be enormous: it is known that mental health and financial stability are connected – and, of course, financial security and food and housing security go hand in hand.

Sadly, while there are good support agencies out there, many folk don't seek expert help until they are in or near crisis. Moreover these agencies are finding themselves currently particularly stretched, not least due to the cost of living crisis but also due to problems in recruiting staff to what are really challenging front-line roles.

Talking about money takes some of the issues upstream. It can mean:

- Helping people to find reliable guidance in budgeting and money management before they reach crisis.
- Helping one another to make responsible and ethical choices.
- Enabling young people to form and take forward good financial habits into adulthood.
- Strengthening peoples' understanding of how the system works and the risks involved – loans and credit being obvious examples. Not to mention navigating the often divergent narratives of economists, bankers and politicians.

Talking about money enables us, therefore, to examine our own practices and also to challenge the wider context, and to do so in the light of our faith. What injustices might we be colluding with? What do we take for granted which

actually bears far closer scrutiny? What might a just approach to global economics look like? What would Christ say about both global finances and our personal responses?

To delve more deeply please investigate maps.org.uk/talk-money-week/



Please pray for:

- People in our communities in crisis
- Those who manage and shape financial laws and policy
- Organisations within our diocese offering debt and money advice:
- Citizens Advice
- Community Advice and Law Service (CALS)
- Community Money Advice Centres including Money Matters, Trinity Money Advice, Zynthia Trust, Hope67, Soar Valley CMA, Melton and District Money Advice Centre

Revd Canon Alison Adams

Canon Pastor, Leicester Cathedral

The Anglican Church of Mexico

Church of England: *Diocese of St Albans, Bishop Alan Smith, Bishop Richard Atkinson, vacancy – Bishop of Hertford*

Church of Sweden: *Diocese of Linköping, Bishop Marika Markovits*

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Arkansas (Episcopal Church)

In vacancy, Mark Brown (R), Fiona Davies, Heather Waterfield (CW) Brockington CE College, Thurlaston CE Primary

Give thanks for a united, loyal church family growing in faith, prayer and service of Christ and for those who preach God's Word faithfully each week.

Pray for strengthening relationships with Brockington through shared prayer times with staff, parents and practical support of needs in school.

Pray for the small congregation and PCC of Thurlaston as they consider the challenges of being a parish in vacancy. *Armagh (Ireland)*

In vacancy, Sharon March (AM) Gilmorton Chandler CE Primary School, St Andrew's CE Primary School, North Kilworth, South Kilworth CE Primary School, Swinford CE Primary School

We continue to be 'God people' in our villages, salt & light where we are. Growing Faith in the nexus of church, school & home is increasingly important for us. Pray we can connect and worship where we find welcome. *Armidale (Australia)*

Nigel Byard, (C), Ruth Bilton (R-PTO), Peter Kent (R), Ben Horrex (Associate & Youth) Bitteswell CE Primary School, Sherrier CE Primary School, Lutterworth College

We give thanks for the new term and pray that we will be able to support the schools in the benefice. Please pray for our Alpha Course, Harvest Festivals and 'Little Acorns' Toddler Group as we seek to serve our community. *Arochukwu / Ohafia (Nigeria)*

Aru (Congo)

Father of all, remember your holy promise, and look with love on all your people, living and departed. On this day we especially ask that you would hold forever all who have suffered during war, those who returned scarred by warfare, those who waited anxiously at home, and those who returned wounded, and disillusioned; those who mourned, and those communities that were diminished and suffered loss. Remember too those who acted with kindly compassion, those who bravely risked their own lives for their comrades, and those who in the aftermath of war, worked tirelessly for a more peaceful world. And as you remember them, remember us, O Lord; grant us peace in our time and a longing for the day when people of every language, race, and nation will be brought into the unity of Christ's kingdom. This we ask in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



The visitor centre in the De-militarized Zone (DMZ) on the South side of the border in 2016.

Nigel Rooms

The Korean War is known as "육이오" (you-ghi-o) to Koreans, symbolising the date 25th June 1950 when North Korean forces, backed by the Soviet Union and China, invaded South Korea. The invasion ignited a devastating three-year armed conflict, which involved approximately 22 nations, including the UK, supporting South Korea in its defence against North Korea. Amidst widespread destruction and countless casualties, an armistice agreement was painstakingly negotiated among North and South Korea, the US, and China, ultimately signed on 27th July 1953. The armistice brought an end to military operations, but it also established a demilitarised zone on the 38th parallel (at a latitude of 38° N) that continues to divide the two Koreas today.

This division not only birthed distinct political, economic and social systems on each side but also tragically separated families, leaving loved ones on opposing sides for decades. Ironically, the heart-wrenching reality of this separation was exemplified in the sporadic "reunion of separated families" since 1985. I cannot forget the televised live reunion event that took place at Mount Kumgang in North Korea for four days in August 2000: it captured elderly parents embracing long-lost sons or daughters after 50 years. The following poem depicts a poignant moment of a Korean meeting his long-lost sister again.

*The day the thundering bomb fell
I lost my mother in the roar
And I foolishly let go of my sister's hand
My drunken father, who said he would find my sister,
Hurriedly left on a good sunny spring day.
Holding on to this life alone by force,
Now I get a chance to meet you.
It was all worth living albeit pathetically.
The day before six-year-old-you went missing,
I pushed you down hard while playing together
And that event has since remained like a thorn in
my throat for eighty years.
So I rushed to check on the scar on your forehead
as soon as we met again.
Your fern-like hands have now become like
gnarled tree branches,
You have lost your plump baby face,
but this elderly granny says she is my sister.
After enduring an unusually harsh winter,
Crossing the sorrowful Arirang Pass,
You are finally here,
We finally meet again.
My heart is so unsettled, I can only wring my hands.
Having heard the North is much colder than
the South,
I put gloves on my sister's hands,
Asking 'How have you lived?
Have you got children?'
Seeing stranger nieces and nephews, my tears
flow foolishly without control.*



*'Let's not part again, never part again'
You are soaking your clothes like a child.
'Don't die, wait until I'll definitely see you again on
your birthday next year
Just stay alive!'*

*'An Anonymous Poem of a Separated Family'
(Go 2019: 4)**

As a South Korean, this poignant reunion is a stark reminder of the human cost of war and the enduring scars left on our Korean Peninsula. From this reunion, I feel Koreans' profound longing for reconnection between the two divided Koreas. From it, I also see the importance of continuing to seek ways to prevent similar tragedies from being repeated both in Korea and elsewhere in the world.

As we mark 70 years since the signing of the armistice, let us remember and pray for all those who suffered, mourned, and were wounded during and in the aftermath of wars. Let us also remember those who went all the way to Korea and risked their lives to bring an end to military operations during the Korean War and prevent further tragedies. Their dedication refreshes our commitment to building peace, while also highlighting the significance of our ongoing efforts towards that end.

Prayer Points:

1. We pray for lasting peace and reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula. May God grant wisdom and compassion to world leaders as they deal with the ongoing tension between the two Koreas.
2. We pray for God's healing presence among those who are affected by the Korean War. May God comfort those who still bear the emotional and physical scars of the conflict.
3. We pray that God continues to renew our commitment to building peace not only in Korea but also in all regions of the world facing conflict and division.
4. We pray for all nations and leaders to prioritise the pursuit of peace, understanding, and cooperation, to prevent the tragedies of war from being repeated.

Dr Sinwoong Kim (he/him)

Research Tutor and Administrator of the Centre for Research and Global Partnerships
The Queen's Foundation
Somerset Rd, Birmingham, B15 2QH

* Go, Ho. (2019). 평양에서 걸려온 전화 (The phone call from Pyongyang). wSeoul: Delfino Publishing.

SUNDAY 12 NOV



National Interfaith Week runs from 12th to 19th November. The three aims of the week are to:

- 1) strengthen good interfaith relations at all levels.
- 2) increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK.
- 3) increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

The diocesan strategy for interfaith relations is entitled "Confident engagement." For many people living in Leicester and Leicestershire, interfaith engagement is simply a normal part of their daily life. This may be because of where they live, where they work or their particular interest or passions. Our city and county have a long, and proud, history of living well together with people of all faiths and none. Celebrated as the most diverse small city on the planet, Leicester sets an internationally recognised standard for friendship across faiths. But we cannot presume this will continue; as people have invested time and energy in interfaith engagement in previous generations, so we must continue that today.

As we engage, we can be confident in our Christian identity. We want to distinguish confidence from cockiness or arrogance; recognising that we do not know all the answers or have all the skills or resources. Confidence in Jesus Christ is marked by humility, by gentle and courteous sharing of

life and faith, building trust and co-operation with people of all faiths and none.

Engagement with those of other faith communities can take many different forms. You might talk about the points of connection and difference between your different faiths, you might talk about the joys and struggles of living out your faith in a complicated and confusing world. You might work together to solve a common challenge, share a hobby, or simply have a cup of tea together.

Pray for wisdom and discernment as you confidently engage with those of all faiths and none.

Revd Dr Tom Wilson

Director, St Philip's Centre

The Anglican Church of Angola

Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church:

Archbishop Urmas Viilma, Bishop Tiit Salumäe,

Bishop Joel Luhamets

Church of England: Diocese of Rochester, Bishop

Jonathan Gibbs, Bishop Simon Burton- Jones



MON 13 NOV Diocese of Trichy

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Interfaith week

Asante-Mampong (West Africa)

TUES 14 NOV Interfaith week

Deanery of Sparkenhoe West - Area Dean: Mark Poskitt; Lay Chair: Pat Lockwood.

Giving thanks for new members on our Deanery Synod and for vision, guidance and unity as we consider the future landscape for ministry in this Deanery.

PTO clergy in Deanery of Sparkenhoe West: John Armstrong, Patricia Bailey, Paul Bromiley, Caroline Burnett, Sue Frost, David Jennings, Ruth Lambert, Malcom Lambert, John Plant, Edward Pogmore, Ben Read & Bob Stephen.

St Asaph (Wales)

WED 15 NOV Interfaith week

Newbold de Verdun, Barlestone & Kirkby Mallory, Peckleton & Tooley Jonny Gordon, John Downs (C), Alyn De Casembroot (R-PTO), Roger Dunster (R-PTO) Barlestone CE Primary School

Pray for our weekly community outreach through Little Mustard Seeds, Stay & Play, Café Jacques and monthly Messy Church. Please also pray for our LLM Roger, Team Vicar John and our Rector, as we seek to develop new patterns and approaches to worship.

Athabasca (Canada)

THURS 16 NOV Interfaith week

International Day of Tolerance

God of all peoples, on this International Day of Tolerance, we pray for our society and the ideological, cultural and political divides which criss-cross it. Inspire your Church to be a witness to something greater than tolerance, by embodying the self-sacrificial love of Jesus. Help us to be quicker to listen than to speak, and to seek to understand more than we wish to be understood. In Jesus's precious name.

Amen.

Atlanta (Episcopal Church)

FRI 17 NOV Interfaith week

Children in Need

Together we can change young lives - BBC Children in Need - <https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk>

Attooch (South Sudan)

SAT 18 NOV Interfaith week

Diocesan Strategic Priorities - New Communities

As we look to fulfil our vision of the Kingdom of God we seek not only the renewal of our existing churches and fresh expressions but also to create and grow new communities so that we can reach and serve more people who wouldn't otherwise 'do' Church.

God of new beginnings, Bless and equip, refresh and inspire the pioneers in our Diocese and those whom you are calling to this ministry. Bless us with your creativity and imagination as we explore new ways to share your timeless love. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Auckland (New Zealand)

SUNDAY 19 NOV SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY & WORLD TOILET DAY



Why Safeguarding Sunday?

Churches are places where anyone can come and feel welcomed, loved, and part of a community. But with that openness comes responsibility, particularly when it comes to safeguarding children and vulnerable people. It's easy to think that abuse and neglect don't happen in our churches. But the sad truth is that they can and do happen. In some cases, failure to safeguard people from abuse has had devastating and long-lasting consequences on people's lives.

Thanks to the many brave people who have experienced such abuse and spoken out about it, we are now much more aware of our responsibility to prevent similar harm in the future. Today, many churches are committed to being safe places for everyone and safeguarding is now a familiar word to most people who work and volunteer in Christian ministry.

But there are always things we can do better and more to learn, which is why Safeguarding Sunday exists. It's your chance to remind everyone in your church the part they play in supporting the safeguarding arrangements you have in place, including what they should do if they have a concern.

When safeguarding is being done well, it probably goes unnoticed (it is only when things go wrong that they hit the news). So Safeguarding Sunday is also an opportunity to highlight what you are doing behind the scenes and to acknowledge the hard work of your Safeguarding Coordinator.

You can, of course, mark Safeguarding Sunday on another day in the year, and you don't need to do anything extraordinary for it (speaking about safeguarding during the notices is a good start!). But whatever you do, take the chance to reaffirm your commitment to protecting vulnerable people, to creating safer cultures and communities for all, and to praying for a world free from harm and neglect.

*For those who are abused and those who abuse;
for those who are care-less about others
and those who are care-full;
for those who offer guidance through the dark
and those who endeavour to safeguard the
vulnerable: good Lord, we pray.*

*Good Lord, give hope to the hurt
and a sense of your love and rightness.
May we all be led into safe and sound living.
Give us your strength for today, your hope for
tomorrow and the light of your love to guide us
in all things.*

Amen.

(Methodist Church Past Cases Review Prayer)

Rachael Spiers

Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor

Toilet Twinning

Flushing away poverty,
one toilet at a time
<https://toilettwinning.org>



*The Church of the Province of Myanmar
(Burma)*

Church of England: Diocese of St
Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Bishop Martin
Seeley,
Bishop Mike Harrison

Scottish Episcopal Church: Diocese of
Aberdeen and Orkney, Bishop Anne Dyer

MON 20 NOV Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

North West Australia

TUES 21 NOV Barwell cum Stapleton and Potters Marston

Philip Watson (C), Lynda Plumpton (R), Debra Watson (R)

Barwell CE Primary School

Please pray for our three churches and their congregations as we give thanks for all of our people who give up so much of their time to continue Christ's work in our villages.

Aweil (South Sudan)

WED 22 NOV Burbage with Aston Flamville

Andrew Hall (C), Mary Tynan (R), Phil Harper (R), Don Peacock and Louise Brown (AM)

Burbage CE Infants School

Part of our parish boundaries mark the intersection of two great Roman roads, Watling Street, and the Fosse, the centre of England. Its name is the High Cross; our aim is to lift on high the name of Jesus and that the Holy Spirit would draw all humankind to him.

Awerial (South Sudan)

THURS 23 NOV Earl Shilton cum Elmesthorpe

Martin Castle (C)

Townlands & St Simon and St Jude's CE Primary Schools, Earl Shilton

Please pray for a desire for Jesus to be the focus of our life and worship. Please pray also for the PCCs as we discern and action our priorities for the coming year and for the enabling of lay ministry in all areas of church life.

Awgu / Aninri (Nigeria)

FRI 24 NOV Hinckley St Mary

Ian Hill (C)

St Mary's CE Primary School

We thank God for our new parish magazine, a key part of our mission to Hinckley. Please pray for God's vision for our dilapidated church hall site- an amazing opportunity for a new building for God's glory, to serve the missional needs of the church and the community.

Awka (Nigeria)

SAT 25 NOV 16 days of Activism against Gender Violence

Global | Mothers' Union (mothersunion.org)

<https://www.mothersunion.org/projects/16-days-activism-against-gender-based-violence>

Awori (Nigeria)



Matthew 25:31 - 46 (NRSV Anglicised)

³¹ 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory... ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

On this last Sunday of the Church's year, we rejoice in Christ the King, ruler and judge of all, who sits on the throne of glory. We long to inherit the kingdom prepared for us from the foundation of the world, and gather in a multitude of places to worship God alone.

We pray for every person who is hungry or thirsty, for the stranger, for those who face the winter with inadequate clothing.

We pray for those who are sick, whether their illness is of the body or the mind, and for those who are in prison.

We pray for those who seek to provide for the needs of others, for those whose work it is to care for people who are marginalised and invisible.

We pray for those who see little justice in their lives; that they may feel upheld by God, who is both just and merciful.

We pray for those who have the responsibility to act justly on behalf of society; that they may act wisely and with compassion and integrity.

*Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended
to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things
as Lord and King;
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order
to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

The Church of Nigeria

Scottish Episcopal Church:

*Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and
Dunblane, Bishop Ian Paton*

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:

Diocese of Porvoo, Bishop Bo-Göran Astrand

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Ayod (South Sudan)

Simon Wearn (C), Diane McCartney (R), Philip Thompson (R-PTO)
Battling Brook Community Primary School
Holy Trinity Hinckley

We thank God that our church family is growing and the roof repairs have been completed. Please pray for opportunities to share our faith and serve our community – especially in the new Hollycroft Grange Estate and Primary School.

Badagry (Nigeria)

Tom Brown (C), Susan Hicklin (PA)

Please pray for us as members of the church family step into new positions of leadership: for hearts to be enthralled by God, for the Spirit's equipping; for a shared Christ-like mindset; and for fruit that will last.

Bahamas and The Turks and Caicos Islands (West Indies)

Almighty God, who didst give such grace unto thy holy Apostle Saint Andrew, that he readily obeyed the calling of thy Son Jesus Christ, and followed him without delay: Grant unto us all, that we, being called by thy holy word, may forthwith give up ourselves obediently to fulfil thy holy commandments; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Ballarat (Australia)

God of mercy and justice, visit with your healing presence the millions of people living with HIV and AIDS. We pray for those orphaned by the disease, all those who have lost loved ones, and those living in fear of contracting it. Help your church, we pray, to be a safe haven for those who are abandoned, discriminated against and rejected on account of their illness. And we pray for your hand of peace and justice to be on the violence that helps spread the virus, and the poverty and inequalities which prevent people from receiving treatment. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

Bangor (Wales)

The slave trade is one of the greatest evils in the world. We had hoped that by 2023 it would have been consigned to the history books. Regrettably, that is not the case. See article on page 21 for more information.

Fuel Poverty Awareness

What does it actually mean to experience fuel poverty, perhaps to be without heating during the dark cold winter months? How does that affect daily living? Let's take the time to be more aware, to consider how best to help and to pray for people we know and into the situations which have led to this distressing phenomenon.

Fuel Poverty Awareness Day - National Energy Action (NEA)

Banks and Torres (Melanesia)

SUNDAY 3 DEC ADVENT 1/ INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

*O that you would tear open the heavens
and come down...*

*From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.*

(Isaiah 64.1a, 4, 5a)

Life is full of waiting, from the mundanity of waiting for buses to the anxiety of waiting on difficult news. Waiting can often be painful and frustrating. When things feel out of our control, we may become impatient, assuming God is distant. We might feel driven to direct our despair upwards, crying out for God to rip apart everything that seems to separate us from Him and to reach down and sort things out.

As Advent begins today, we are called to begin a particularly profound kind of waiting. Advent is a season of expectation and preparation as we anticipate the birth of Christ – the miraculous, amazing gift of the incarnation, through which God did tear apart the heavens and come down, longing to be with us as one of us, through Jesus.

We may often feel powerless in the face of life's challenges, aching for God's presence, but we can be reassured that throughout history God has always been with us in our yearning, and has shown He rewards our waiting by working for us. The steadfast God 'of ages past', who has already demonstrated such immeasurable



love, is the same God of today. Christ has come before, and Christ will come again. May that comfort and sustain us in this time of waiting.

Pray:

- For our churches and communities as we prepare to journey through Advent
- That those who feel powerless and hopeless will feel God reach into their lives

Jude Taylor

Discipleship Officer, Leicester Cathedral

The Church of North India

Church of England: Diocese of Chester,
Bishop Mark Tanner, Bishop Julie Conalty,
Bishop Sam Corley

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:
Diocese of Kuopio, Bishop Jari Jolkkonen

MON 4 DEC Diocese of Wyoming

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Barbados (West Indies)

TUES 5 DEC International Volunteers Day

Bosworth

Mark Poskitt, Ann Hall (C), Pat Lockwood (R-PTO), Colleen Annan (R-PTO)
Market Bosworth St Peter's CE Primary School

We give thanks for continued ministry to these village communities. Please pray for our Little Fishes and FunChurch groups and their leaders, for growing networks and community engagement.

Bari (Nigeria)

WED 6 DEC Sheepy

Julia Hargreaves (C), Sue Frost (C-PTO) Colleen Annan (R-PTO)

Sheepy CofE Primary School

Six churches set in the west of the diocese, reaching outwards to their communities and church school. Including people of all ages and backgrounds through generous discipleship is at the heart of who we are.

Baringo (Kenya)

THURS 7 DEC Fenn Lanes Group

In vacancy (C), Jan Harding (R), Carolyn Patullo (R), Michelle Nelson (R).

Higham on the Hill School, St Margaret's School, Stoke Golding, Witherley CE Primary School

In this vacancy, we give thanks for all the hard work from our teams, and our retired clergy, who continue to make regular worship possible in our 5 village churches.

We ask God's blessing on our appointment process, for the right person to lead and encourage us into the changes to come.

Barisal (Bangladesh)

FRI 8 DEC Sapcote and Sharnford cum Wigston Parva

Jo Hover (C), Di Harrold (PA), Jill Matthews (PA), Gwynne Jones (R-PTO)

All Saints CE Primary School Sapcote, and Sharnford Primary School

Please pray for us as we explore new worship liturgy and styles. We give thanks for the two church schools in our villages and all that they do to bring the gospel to the children in their care.

Barrackpore (North India)

SAT 9 DEC

Diocesan Strategic Priorities – Reconciling Communities

One of our strategic objectives is for our worshipping communities to become Reconciling Communities – places where people share the love of God across difference, and experience the restoration of relationships with others, with themselves, with creation, and with God.

Triune God, in you, diversity and unity come together seamlessly. But in our churches, in our homes and in our communities, there are fractures. Sometimes we exclude or disown; at other times, we keep at arm's length and substitute love for tolerance. Teach us what it means to be one as Father and Son are one. Give us the forbearance to seek peace over victory, the strength to let go of grudges and the courage to give and receive forgiveness, In the name of Christ. Amen.

Bath and Wells (England)



The Good Shepherd by Yu Jiade

Human Rights Day

See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.
(Isaiah 40.10,11)

Waiting again. Year after year the Church marks Advent as a time of waiting for God to come. Like Israel was waiting for God's promised Saviour, so we are still waiting for Jesus Christ to return.

Who is this God we are waiting for?

The verses above paint two very different pictures of God.

A God who comes with might. That God sounds possibly intimidating and scary. One whose arrival we should fear. A mighty God who can overthrow the powers that be, a God before whom every knee shall bow.

A God, who is like a shepherd, gathering lambs in his arms, gently caring for the mother sheep

and ensuring the whole flock is well fed and look after.

Who is this God we are waiting for?

Mighty, gentle, powerful and caring. To be feared and yet our refuge and comfort. Utterly vulnerable and dependent in Mary's womb. Victorious and mighty on high at the right hand of God the Father. A God who stands with the disempowered, the poor and the outcasts. A God who challenges the powers that be and overcomes even death.

A God like a mighty and gentle Shepherd.

Prayer prompts:

- We long and wait for you gentle and mighty Father to come and overthrow the powers of destruction, oppression and violence.
- We long and wait for you, gentle and mighty Christ to come and hold and comfort us in our hurt, our vulnerability and need.
- We long and wait for you gentle and mighty Holy Spirit to come and transform ourselves, the Church and the world in the way of the mighty and gentle God of the incarnation.

Revd Manuela Schmucki
Leicester Cathedral

The Church of Pakistan

Church of England: Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham, Bishop Paul Williams, Bishop Andy Emerton

Church of Norway: Diocese of Borg, Bishop Kari Mangrud Alfsvag

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Bathurst (Australia)

PTO clergy in Deanery of Sparkenhoe East: Pam Harvey & John Woolmer
Area Dean: Ed Bampton; Assistant Area Dean: Dave Hover; Lay Chair: Marian Driver

Please pray for our newly elected Synod and for those who have stepped forward as Deanery officers, Marian as Lay Chair, Les as Treasurer and Liz as Secretary.

Pray we may continue to work together well across the Deanery, sharing skills and resources as we support each other and grow God's Kingdom.
Bauchi (Nigeria)

Ed Bampton, Riffat Zamurad (C), Joan Hawkins (PA-PTO), Ruth Scott (AM), Keith Wignall (AM)

Please pray for our curate Riffat, recently ordained priest, as she starts this new phase of her ministry. Pray for the many plans we have to grow God's Kingdom across the Benefice, including our Alpha course, bereavement course, reordering hopes and plans to employ a Families Worker.
Belize (West Indies)

Richard Trethewey, Luke Dobson, (C), Brian Hughes (R-PTO), Geoff Stokes (R-PTO)

Both churches are exploring how their buildings – church or hall – can be developed further to be a good resource for the local community. Please pray that this process helps us grow in everyday service and in everyday witness.
Bendigo (Australia)

Matthew Gough(C), Ian Dutton (AM)

Richard Hill CE Primary School, Thurcaston

Please pray for Rebecca Davis as she is discerning about ordination and Clare Gough as she pursues Associate Ministry. We pray for God's blessing as we introduce small groups and also develop and ministry amongst children and young people.
Beni (Congo)

Diocesan Strategic Priorities – Eco Communities

The Church of England has committed to becoming net zero by 2030, and as part of that, we are striving to reduce the environmental impact of our buildings and activities, and encouraging worshipping communities to become Eco Churches.

O God, we pray for justice and fairness for those worst hit by our changing climate. We know people living in extreme poverty around the world are worst hit by the climate crisis but have done the least to contribute to it, and have the fewest resources to cope with its effects. We ask for your mercy and your wisdom to become better stewards of your creation, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** Beni (Nigeria)



The Third Sunday of Advent

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God... For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.
(Isaiah 61.10a,11)

As we prepare for the birthday of Jesus we reflect on the joy of new growth. When that seed breaks through the earth or that cutting you planted roots – what joy! Then the hard work starts, tending, watering and lovingly nurturing this new plant to survive in a tough world.

Jesus came into this world as a baby. Mary tenderly and lovingly nurtured Him. The joy she felt as a mother cannot be described by words only. Mary was no ordinary mother – she raised the Son of God! It is with joy that we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Her faith and belief in God never faltered. She would have prayed constantly to God for continuing help and strength to enable Jesus to grow and flourish. It is with joy we celebrate His life. It is with joy we remember the work He and His disciples started, and it is with joy that we continue His work today spreading new Christian growth throughout the world.

Let us remember through prayer those who have not been as fortunate. Those who have not flourished. Those whose seeds have not grown.

For prayer and reflection as we wait:

- Those who live in poverty
- Those who are displaced in the world or living in conflict
- All who are struggling to thrive – that they find joy
- For ourselves – to find joy in Jesus Christ

Revd Julia Bradshaw
Leicester Cathedral

The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

Church of Norway:

Diocese of Oslo, Bishop Kari Veiteberg

Church of England: *Diocese of Durham,*

Bishop Paul Butler, Bishop Sarah Clark

Scottish Episcopal Church: *Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness, Bishop Mark Strange (Primus)*

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

International Migrants Day: *A reflection for International Migrants Day*

Earlier this year, with IWC colleagues, I visited an exhibition at New Walk Museum. It celebrated fifty years since Leicester became a sanctuary for 10,000 Ugandan Asians, forced out by Idi Amin. It was a reminder that international migration, especially in Leicester, is now part of all our stories. Later I was to return and visit the NHS exhibition there also. It celebrated the colossal contribution made by migrants, without which our dearly loved NHS would be unable to function. As a recently ordained priest I've become aware that our welcome of the new arrival has all too often fallen short. God wants better for us. This International Migrants Day let us pray that we can see all people like God sees us, as one people, all of us in need of compassion and mercy. In the Old Testament we repeatedly see the importance of not oppressing the 'foreigner'. In Revelation 7:9, 'a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from tribes and peoples of all languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb,' This is how the Kingdom of God looks.

Let us pray that:

We make a warm welcome for the traveller and the stranger.

We recognise that we are part of one people under God.

We are bold enough to speak out and give a voice to the migrant.

Amen.

Rev Mark Batchelor Curate – St Denys, Evington

Bentiu (South Sudan)

Gareth Hutchinson & Rob Marsh (C), Tony Stokes (R), Carolyn Winkless (R)

Pray for all involved in mission and ministry in everyday witness in our communities. *Diocese of Bermuda*

David Hover (C), Rosemary Meredith (R), Peter Kitchen (Pio)

Please pray for our deepening fellowship as a Benefice; for discernment as we seek to renew our vision and engage well with Minster Communities; for Revd Jimi Kaci as he joins St Andrew's; for the roof appeal at St Crispin's. *Bethlehem (Episcopal Church)*

Thomas was the first to acknowledge the divinity of Jesus, but is also well known as 'Doubting Thomas' for his doubts about the resurrection when first told about it.

Pray for affirmation in times when we doubt our own faith.

Bhopal (North India)

Markfield, Thornton, Bagworth, Stanton under Bardon & Copt Oak

Andrew Smith, Pauline Ashby (C), Peter Maynard, Delia Geary (AM), Dave Robinson, Adrian Whalley (LAM)

Please pray for the Junction 22 worshipping community as we seek to engage more deeply with wider community life and make fresh connections with people of all ages.

Bida (Nigeria)

Biharamulo (Tanzania)



Christ the New Temple
(1954) by Angelo da Fonseca

And Mary said:

*“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
For he has looked with favour on his lowly servant,
From this day all generations will call me blessed.
The Almighty has done great things for me,
And holy is his name.”*

(Luke 1.46-49)

Mary’s song of praise is bold, exultant and worshipful, celebrating the liberative power of God. How might this song speak to us now, and how might we too proclaim God’s greatness, truly believing that God is at work in the world, even when there is so much uncertainty and injustice?

This song of Mary’s is a song of the joy of knowing that, despite the uncertainties and challenges of her situation, God has called her. It’s knowing that God is not far off, does not overlook her, but has chosen her to nurture and bring forth Christ into the world.

Mary’s song is also our song. We, like Mary, are called to bring forth Christ into the world.

We are called to witness to a power that is beyond our control, and yet has chosen to dwell with and in us. The proclamation of this song is a realisation that to be with God is to be involved in an enormous, overwhelming joy.

Prayer Points:

- For the witness of Christians in all realms of society, and of the Church, to Christ this Advent and Christmas;
- For all those exploring their calling and vocation.

Anna Bland
St Nicholas Church

The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

Church of England: Diocese of Chichester,
Bishop Martin Warner, Bishop Ruth Bushyager,
Bishop Will Hazlewood

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:
Diocese of Mikkeli, Bishop Seppo Häkkinen

The Diocese of Kiteto

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Christmas Day

The angel said to them,
‘Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.’ (Luke 2.10,11)

As we celebrate the Word of God becoming flesh on this Christmas Day, may our hearts be filled with great joy, love and kindness. We pray for the Church; the Body of Christ, our Bishops, our Clergy, and all who help the Church carry out her daily work, encouraging us to follow the word of God so that we may be filled with God’s love. May this love be reflected in our daily actions and fill our days with hope and joy that will last even after the Christmas decorations have been put away.

Christmas allows us to be grateful to God for entrusting baby Jesus into the care of a human family; Mary and Joseph, as early examples of affection and devotion to him. We are grateful for our own families who will gather around the table for Christmas lunch, and we pray for the food God provides. We remember those who cannot be with us, the sick, the poor and the lonely and we ask God to bless them, heal them and keep them safe.

With hearts filled with gratitude, we thank God for our children, for the protection and love that He bestows on them daily, and for all the joy He surrounds them with through interactions with friends, teachers and pets! We thank God for all new babies and expectant mothers, for the presents under the tree, the delicious food we will eat and above all, for sending His son, Jesus, to save us all. May we all know the presence of Jesus in our lives this day and every day. **Amen.**

Happy birthday, Jesus!

Pray:

- For families and friends sharing the joy of Christmas
- For families under strain or separated at this time
- With thanks for the gift of Jesus given in love to each of us

Chi Okafor
Leicester Cathedral

Birmingham (England)



The Birth of Jesus
(1973) by Jesus Mafa, Cameroon

TUES 26 DEC St Stephen, Deacon and first Martyr

The Feast of St Stephen is celebrated on 26th December and is referenced in the opening lines of the Christmas carol Good King Wenceslas.

Pray for:

- Those who are persecuted for their faith and for standing up for their beliefs
- All who are serving as Deacons in the church
- All who work to arrange funerals and memorials

Blackburn (England)

WED 27 DEC John, Apostle and Evangelist

Thank God for the loyalty and witness of St John, the disciple who proclaimed Jesus as the Word made flesh. Pray that in our lives we may all be witness to the work and love of Christ.

Bo (West Africa)

THURS 28 DEC The Holy Innocents

We pray for all those who suffer today, especially the children of our world, and for those who have lost a child in tragic circumstances.

Boga (Congo)

FRI 29 DEC

Bolivia (South America)

SAT 30 DEC

Bondo (Kenya)

SUNDAY 31 DEC 1st Sunday of Christmas

New Year's Eve

At the turning of the year we reflect on the year past, our achievements, our difficulties, regrets, sorrows and joys. We look forward to a new year, the hope of things to come. We remember and give thanks that God is with us through past, present and future and that his love is constant, whatever we face from within and without.

A Prayer for the New Year

And the one who was seated on the throne said 'See, I am making all things new.' (Revelation 21:5)

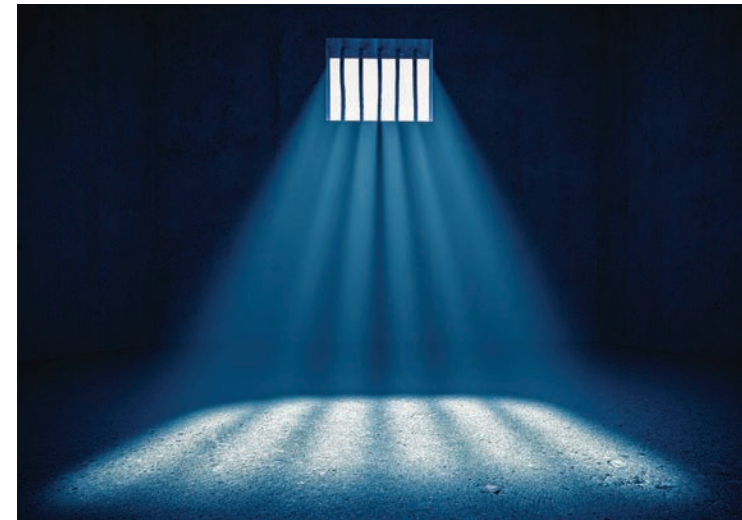
God of new beginnings, of hope and deliverance, dawn us with fresh opportunities, equip us for new tasks, fill us with eager longing, thrill us with fresh starts, that with the past behind us we may look to all that lies ahead with faith in Jesus, hope in you and love for all. **Amen.**

Happy New Year!

The Anglican Church of Rwanda



Prayer for Persecuted Christians



PRAYER FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

Latest August 2023

According to Open Doors, Christianity is the most persecuted faith in the world.

"More than 360 million Christians live in places where they experience high level of persecution just for following Jesus."

Every year, on the first Sunday of November, the Church observes International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Christians.

As body of Christ, we are required to pray because "if one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it." (1 Corinthians 12:26)

Throughout the church history, believers have faced persecution, and this is something the Bible anticipates.

The message cannot be more explicit than 2 Timothy 3:12 "everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."

However, as Christina Maza says, "Christian persecution and genocide is worse now than any time in history."

According to a report ordered by the then Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt, the persecution of Christians in parts of the world is at near "genocide" levels.

Persecution of Christians is on the rise all over the world; a concern corroborated by a short snippet of some of the horrific incidents, such as:

Since the 1979 Revolution, Christians in Iran have suffered increasing persecution.

IDOP

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
for the PERSECUTED CHURCH

On 23 January 1999, Graham Steins, an Australian missionary, and his two sons were burned to death in Odisha, India.

On 22 September 2013, 127 people were killed in a suicide bombing in All Saints Church Peshawar, Pakistan.

Suicide bombers killed at least 45 people on Palm Sunday, 9 April 2017, in St George's and St Mark's in Egypt.

Easter Sunday of 2019 saw bombs ripping through St Anthony's, St Sebastian's, Zion Church and hotels in Sri Lanka, killing at least 290 people.

At least 50 people were killed and several abducted in an attack on St Francis Xavier in Nigeria on the Pentecost Sunday 5 June 2022.

More than 120 Christians have been killed in India since May 2023.

With Christian persecution at its worst, Christians all over the world need your prayers.

People often treat prayer to be the last resort. Let it be your first response.

Pray for the Persecuted with these **15 Ps**:

- (a) **PEACE:** that the persecuted find comfort and peace in the Lord despite hate, discrimination and violence (*Philippians 4:6-7*)
- (b) **PATIENCE:** Lord, help us be "joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." (*Romans 12:12*)



(c) **PROTECTION:** from harm for those who are forced to hide their faith (*Psalms 9:9-10*)

(d) **PROVISION:** of practical help for the less privileged and the persecuted.

Jehovah's Jireh, you are both our provider and provision, provide for us when our own means seem inadequate. (Philippians 4:19)

(e) **PERSEVERANCE:** for courage to be worthy imitators of Christ (*Ephesians 5:1-2*)

(f) **PERSISTENCE:** to keep sharing, keep planting, keep watering and keep obeying the Great Commission, to keep knocking, keep seeking (*Luke 11:8-10*)

(g) **POWER OF PROCLAMATION:** Let the Lord's sovereign power be known through the proclamation of his Word (*Isaiah 55:10-11*)

(h) **PROLIFERATION:** continued growth of the church through the witness of the persecuted (*Matthew 10:8*). As Tertullian says, "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church."

God of growth, may persecution lead to proliferation, as the gospel penetrates the darkest circumstances (Acts 4:20-22; 1 Peter 4:12-13)

(i) **PEOPLE & PLACES:** Pray for specific places where persecution is rampant, including North Korea, Nigeria, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya and Yemen. (*Psalms 2:8; Joshua 1:3; Matthew 10:11-13*)

(j) **PRISONERS:** for the safety, health and well-being of those imprisoned for their faith. "Remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison." (*Hebrew 13:3*)



- (k) **PERSECUTORS:** that they find Christ; like Paul, they may also encounter Christ (*Matthew 5:44-45*)
- (l) **PRESENCE:** God of light and life, may the light of your presence shine through our darkness (*Psalms 27:8*)
- (m) **PROFOUND TRANSFORMATION:** of individuals, institutions and relationships. May we all be shaped and transformed together in God's image (*2 Corinthians 3:18*)
- (n) **PERENNIAL HOPE:** for God to be glorified, whether in life or in death (*Philippians 1:20*)
- (o) **PRESCIENCE & PROVIDENCE:** for careful governance and guidance from *Jehovah Raah*, Lord the Shepherd (*Psalms 23:1*)

Besides praying, funds can be collected and donated to the NGOs, such as Open Doors, International Christian Concern and Voice of the Martyrs, which support human rights of the persecuted Christians.

Although our hearts ache, yet we are hopeful not helpless.

The Revd Sunny George
All Saints Church Belgrave, Leicester

Please use this space to record your own prayer prompts and reflections...





Diocese of
Leicester