

PRAYER DIARY

MAY - AUGUST 2024



Diocese of
Leicester

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Launde Abbey, East Norton
Leicestershire LE7 9XB

MAY

6 - 9 **LOOK AT THE BIRDS**
with Mark Winter ***FULLY BOOKED***

13 **QUIET DAY** with Matt Long

20 - 24 **GARDENING RETREAT (MAY)**
with Karen Johnson, Launde Abbey's
Head Gardener

JUNE

3 **QUIET DAY** with John Rackley

25 **RURAL MISSION HUB DAY** with
Rural Ministries and Launde Abbey

27 - 30 **INDIVIDUALLY GUIDED RETREAT
FOR BEGINNERS**
with Rhona Knight and team

JULY

1 **QUIET DAY**

15 - 18 **MINDFULNESS RETREAT**
with Nicola Smith

AUGUST

5 **QUIET DAY** with Carys Walsh

6 - 12 **INDIVIDUALLY GUIDED RETREAT**
with Rhona Knight and team

12 - 14 **PRAYING WITH ICONS RETREAT**
with Catherine Lomas

19 - 23 **TEXTILES RETREAT** with Claire Goode

19 - 23 **GARDENING RETREAT (AUGUST)**
with Karen Johnson, Launde Abbey's
Head Gardener

24 **SATURDAY QUIET DAY**

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prayer • hospitality • community • sanctuary

FOREWORD FROM THE BISHOP OF LOUGHBOROUGH



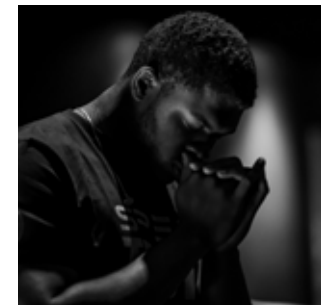
At the beginning of the year, I was blessed to be able to go on a silent retreat at St Bueno's, a Jesuit retreat centre in North Wales. Whatever your ministry or caring responsibilities, I imagine, like me, that your head is often buzzing with words and worries, things to do and things to remember. So, the experience of silence and solitude stood in stark contrast to my usual day-to-day life and ways of relating to God. It was a powerful time for reset and I found myself able to go much deeper in my thoughts and reflection thanks to the lack of interruption.

Since returning, I have tried to wake up early to set aside between 20 minutes to an hour for silent prayer every morning. Rather than a chore, I have found it to be a rich gift. Having connected with God in the silence, I feel a sense of freedom and strength to go about the rest of my day. Luke tells us that Jesus "often withdrew to lonely places and prayed" (Luke 5:16). Time in silence with the Father, not just away from the crowds but away from the backdrop to his everyday life – the things, perhaps, which reminded him what he needed to do that day – was clearly an important foundation for his ministry.

So, my sisters and brothers, it is with us. I know with busy lives and infinite demands on our time, it can feel like a luxury we don't have to set aside time to be still in the presence of God. But if Christ, the Saviour, who surely more than anyone felt pulled in multiple directions and the pressure to meet everyone's needs, found it vital, then how much more so is it for us? Even if it just five minutes, I encourage you to take time in silence, to catch your breath and experience the presence of God who is ever close to us by his Holy Spirit.

+ Saju Loughborough

+Saju Muthalaly
Bishop of Loughborough





WELCOME

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!
Alleluia!

Welcome to the new, late spring and early summer edition of the Diocese of Leicester Prayer Diary for May through to August 2024.

As you will receive this, we will be well into the Easter season celebrating our Lord's triumphant resurrection, heading for Ascension Day and the joyful celebration of Pentecost Sunday; hope for all across the world.

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.

We have also added on a Monday the places on the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

from the World Council of Churches; these will be prefixed by **EPC**: The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle | World Council of Churches (oikoumene.org). In addition to Principal Feasts, Holy Days & Festivals, we have also added Lesser Festivals and also **Commemorations in bold and italics** from the Common Worship Lectionary.

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.

Additionally, 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 above. It can also be downloaded from www.leicester.anglican.org/everyday-faith/calendar-or-prayer/

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 and to all our contributors in this edition – thank you so much!



LEICESTER CATHEDRAL REVEALED

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

The project has completed repair and restoration of the cathedral building to secure the fabric for the long term, and the Cathedral re-opened to visitors at the end of November 2023.

Leicester Cathedral Revealed is also constructing a new Heritage & Learning Centre, a striking extension to the Cathedral. Good progress is being made and the centre will open in autumn 2024, providing an exhibition gallery with immersive interpretation, a flexible learning space for school children and community groups, and WCs.

There have been many exciting discoveries as part of Leicester Cathedral Revealed. In the coming months and years, you will be able to find out about them, learn about the Cathedral's heritage and its current work, as well as get involved in an exciting programme of events, exhibitions and activities that will be developed with the local community.

Leicester Cathedral Revealed will realise our vision to restore the cathedral building, renew its sacred spaces, and reaffirm

the Cathedral's place at the centre of a resurgent city and county.

Please pray for:

- Cathedral staff and volunteers involved with the project.
- All those delivering the 3-year programme of events, activities and engagement.
- Contractor and consultant team completing the complex building works for the new Heritage & Learning Centre.
- Ongoing efforts to secure the final funding needed to complete the project including the archaeological assessment and analysis work.
- The new Dean, Revd Canon Karen Rooms, who started in post in March 2024.

Simon Bentley

Project Director for
Leicester Cathedral Revealed

simon.bentley@leicestercofe.org



Cathedral roof



Cathedral windows



View of proposed HLC from Cathedral Gardens



New floor



Scaffolding



Partitions

MON 29 APR Diocese of Trichy

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese. **See article on page 38.**

Catherine of Siena, teacher of the faith, 1380.

EPC: Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

Easton (Episcopal Church)

TUES 30 APR

Pandita Mary Ramabai, translator 1922.

Framland Deanery

Crystal McAllister (Deanery Pioneer Minister), Melaine Oldershaw (AM)

Through our pioneer network I support pioneers with their fXc, hosting 'Kindlings' for learning and fellowship, hosting an online gathering 'Storybearers' for worship and discipleship, as well as ministering to churches throughout the Deanery with their mission and ministry... do pray for all this work.

Eau Claire (Episcopal Church)

WED 1 MAY Philip and James, Apostles

Melton Mowbray Team Parish

Mary Barr (C - Team Rector), Janet King (Pio), Carol Parker (Pio), Linda Pearson (R), Lorraine Simmonds (PA), St Mary's CE Primary School

Please join in thanking God for hard-working volunteers assisting the Rector in offering ministry and mission across our different church communities, including new developments with children, families and schools. Please continue to pray for those anxious about Minster Community formation.

Central Ecuador (Episcopal Church)

THURS 2 MAY

Athanasius, bishop, teacher of the faith, 373.

The Upper Wreake Benefice

David Harknett (C), Malcolm Britton (R-PTO)

Frisby-on-the-Wreake CE Primary School

FABRIC: new toilet, servery and sound system installed at Frisby St.Thomas. FINANCE: Mission & Ministry Fund paid for gifts for school staff to bless their work. FAITH: 'resurrection' of bellringing in Hoby & Kirby began one year ago!

Edinburgh (Scottish Episcopal Church)

FRI 3 MAY

Ironstone Villages

John Barr (C), Mike Alexander (AM), Christine Alexander (AM), Paul Taylor (R-PTO), Mike Oates (AM), Scafford and Waltham CE Primary School

We give thanks for good partnerships with our two church schools, and pray for God's guidance as we seek to grow faith intergenerationally. We give thanks for all who serve on our six PCCs, and pray for the resourcing of several church building projects.

Edmonton (Canada)

SAT 4 MAY

English saints and martyrs of the Reformation Era.

St Edmundsbury and Ipswich (England)



Chaplaincy Team



Looking ahead to Mental Health Awareness Week 13th-19th May 2024

How are you today? As a mental health Chaplain this is a question I ask my patients, and also myself, every day.

With the constant pressures of daily life on each of our shoulders, it is important to be aware of our own feelings and how we need to take care of our mental health before we try to support others.

A Christian patient asked me this week, how can I relate to God, I have hurt too many people around me. It is okay to ask these tough questions. As we explore together, our own spiritual awareness deepens and may lead us into a closer relationship with ourselves, others, and God.

A person who struggles with their mental health at times may feel marginalised by society and even their family and friends. Our capacity as human beings to be a listening non-judgmental presence when adversity strikes, is an invaluable gift to share. As Christians, we know that Jesus lived on the margins of society and understands perfectly what it means to be an outcast:

Christ Beneath Me

Beneath are the everlasting arms – and they bear the print of the nails. No matter how far I have sunk. He descends to lift me up. He has plumbed all the hells of this world that He may lift us upwards. He is our firm support.

David Adam, The Edge of Glory.

As I sit alongside patients, who open their lives to me, I am humbled by the difficulties they face. Often, situations get worse before they get better. Positive thinking only gets us so far when we face crisis points in our lives. I heard a term recently advocating accurate thinking and the need to process damaging thoughts, which I believe is helpful. God knows us completely and accepts us in our unique, vulnerable humanity (Psalm 139: 1-10).

Lord, heal us and help us. Amen.

Prayer Points

- Give thanks for all that God is doing to reach out and bless people facing mental health difficulties.
- Pray for all those who struggle to relate well to themselves, others and God because of their mental ill health.

- Pray for friends and families who provide loving support and strength to their loved one, that they in turn will receive the same.
- Pray for all healthcare staff and chaplaincy teams across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland who seek to be a listening, hopeful presence in patients' lives.
- Pray for ourselves that we, as churches continue to seek prayerful and practical ways to bring God's loving presence into this world.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Alison Davis

Mental Health Lead, Healthcare Chaplain

Find out more:

UHL: chaplaincy@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

and LPT: chaplaincy@leicspart.nhs.uk

Vocations

Called to be 'in God'

Growing Deep Roots



Called to be 'in community'

Growing Together



Called to be 'in the world'

Growing Fruitfulness



'They shall be called Oaks of Righteousness, the planting of the Lord to display of his glory.'
Isaiah 61:3

We have each been called to be a beloved child of God, called to live in community and called to reveal the glory of God in the world.

Called to be in God

Trees establish deep roots that provide stability, nutrients and water to enable them to grow, flourish and be fruitful. We are called to be the beloved children of God and by

abiding in him we can grow, flourish and be fruitful.

Called to be in community

Within woodlands, trees form interdependent communities. Connected by their roots, individual trees are able to share resources. Above the ground, the trees of the forest protect each other from storms and create a microclimate that benefits them all. As the beloved children of God, deeply rooted in him, we are called into communities of faith where we can support each other and encourage one another to grow in faith.

Called to bless the world

Trees provide food, shelter and resources to other creatures but the benefits of the life of the forest go far beyond their physical location, the air is cleaned, water is filtered and soil is stabilised and enriched. The forest brings new life in abundance.

As the beloved children of God, nourished in communities of faith, we are called to be fruitful in the world. As we live in loving service, we find our life in God enriched and our lives in community glorified.

*This may lead us to consider
3 simple questions:*

1. how am I growing in my life in God?
2. what gifts and resources do I have to offer my community of faith?
3. how is God calling us to live out our faith in the world?

The calling to fruitfulness is for the whole people of God. Across the Diocese of Leicester many faithful people are serving their churches and communities in countless ways. Among them, some are called to specific ministries authorised by the church. Please pray for those beginning new lay and ordained ministries this summer.

18th May - Called Together Service

The licensing of new Associate Ministers and the relicensing of existing lay ministers.

29th June - **Deacon ordinations**

30th June - **Priest ordinations**

Liz Rawlings

Parish Transition and Ministry Development Enabler (Vocations and Discipleship)

Spirituality Advisor

There are varieties of gifts,
but the same Spirit.
There are varieties of service,
but the same Lord.
There are different kinds of working,
but the same God is at work in all.
There is one body, one Spirit,
one hope in God's call;
one Lord, one faith, one baptism.
There is one God, Father of all,
over all and in all,
to whom Christ ascended on high.
And through his Spirit he gives us gifts:
**so that we can minister together
to build up his body,
to be mature in the fullness of Christ.**

'Risen Lord' Anthem

Risen Lord, give us a heart for simple things:
Love, laughter, bread, wine and dreams.

Fill us with green, growing hope.

Risen Lord, make us a people whose song
is Alleluia,

whose sign is peace and whose name is love.

Risen Lord, give us a heart for simple things
and to sing Alleluia.

Barry Rose (b.1944)

Words supplied by The Revd John Hencher

Igreja (Brazil)

Church of England: Diocese of Southwark,
Bishop Christopher Chessun,
Bishop Martin Gainsborough,
Bishop Rosemarie Mallet,
Bishop Karowei Dorgu

Church of Norway:
Diocese of Björgvin, Bishop Ragnhild Jepsen

MON 6 MAY Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese. **See article on page 40.**

Rogation day: The Agricultural Year | The Church of England

EPC: India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Egba (Nigeria)

TUES 7 MAY Bishop's Leadership Team

Rogation day: The Agricultural Year | The Church of England

Launde Deanery

Interim Co-Area Deans: Jonathan Dowman & Jayne Lewis; Lay Chair: Madeleine Wang; Pastoral and Outreach Enabler: David Palmer (C)

We give thanks for the work of Growing Faith in our schools (Tugby, Billesdon, Hallaton and Church Langton) and the fledgling fresh expressions that are beginning. We pray for the Minster Community as we discern what God is calling us to become and how we share this journey together, small as we are.

Egba West (Nigeria)

WED 8 MAY Bishop's Study Day on Intercultural Worship at the Peepul Centre, Belgrave

Julian of Norwich, spiritual writer, c. 1417.

Rogation day: The Agricultural Year | The Church of England

Launde Deanery PTO Clergy: Christine Blodwell, Ian Gemmell, Jeff Hopewell, Philip Norwood and John Taylor.

Egbu (Nigeria)

THURS 9 MAY Ascension Day

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ
to have ascended into the heavens,
so we in heart and mind may also ascend
and with him continually dwell;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Egypt (Province of Alexandria)

FRI 10 MAY

St Michael and All Angels, Loddington

Alison Myers (P-i-C)

Give thanks for the steady faithfulness of the Loddington congregation that meets month by month. Pray that becoming part of the Minster Community enriches them with friendships and resources across a wider area, and pray for the repair of their building.

Eha-Amufu (Nigeria)

SAT 11 MAY

Ekiti (Nigeria)



Aline reunited with her three sons Vyukesenge, Fisto and Irumva. Behind them, the new home they're building together. © Christian Aid



Christian Aid Week 12-18 May

Seven days, so many ways to make a change.

This year, there are lots of exciting new fundraising activities and resources available for a joyful seven days!

How about taking on Christian Aid's new '70k in May' challenge? This new virtual event enables a sponsored 70 kilometres of movement. You decide how to cross that finish line – walk it, run it, swim it, jump it – there are so many ways to get involved. This is an opportunity to connect with your church, friends and family as you take on this challenge together. Have fun, enjoy the outdoors, and make a difference. Or perhaps your church would like to consider how to stand together with all our global neighbours? If so, there is an Order of Service and Sermon notes which can support local services. Perhaps you're planning the usual house-to-house or delivery-only collections, which raised a vital £750,000 last year!

However you decide to get involved, the website can provide for everything you need to fundraise, donate, campaign and pray at **caweek.org**.

Pushed to the brink of survival

Your support could help people such as Aline Nibogora in Burundi, who felt the full force of extreme poverty when an early marriage ended in abuse and violence. Separated from her six children, she was forced to sleep on the streets. With no home, healthcare or security, Aline was pushed to the brink of survival. But Aline transformed her life with a little help from Christian Aid. We provided vital training and support that meant Aline could nurture a small income that in time enabled her to buy and grow nutritious food, build a home to call her own, and return her children to her side. Aline was determined to push back against the inhumanity of poverty, driven by hope, faith and the love for her children.



Aline is now farming crops so she can cook nutritious meals for her children © Christian Aid

Aline can not only look ahead to her children's future now, but her own too. Naturally, Aline wants security as she ages, and in the next five years she hopes to expand her current wholesale business by selling a range of goods, so that one day she can buy a mill. This will provide a source of income without the need to transport heavy goods over long distances. Aline told us: *'This is not a dream. It is a plan, and I will do it. I am a woman who is an achiever.'*

Your support this Christian Aid Week will ensure more people in Burundi get the skills and knowledge they need to push back against the inhumanity of poverty. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Peter Yates

Global Affairs – Social Responsibility Panel

Christian Aid Week:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk>

'I can do all things through him who strengthens me.' (Philippians 4:13)

In the areas where we work in Burundi, people without their own small business or income will typically head out on an empty stomach each

morning. They must look for casual work to buy food for that evening.

Most only eat once a day. How much they and their children will eat depends on the work they were able to find that same day. Making plans for the future is impossible when you can't make plans beyond the day.

This was the position Aline found herself in when an early marriage ended in abuse and violence.

Separated from her children, she was forced to sleep on the streets of Burundi. Hungry, scorned and alone, Aline was pushed to the brink of survival, but her life was about to change.

Think about the plans you have for this coming week, month and year. Give thanks that you are able to look ahead. Pray for those whose lives are too uncertain to make plans.

God, whose Spirit dwells in us guide us to make plans which further your kingdom. Give us your vision and the courage to follow your path.

Amen

The Anglican Church of Burundi

Church of England: Diocese of Gloucester,
Bishop Rachel Treweek,
Bishop Robert Springett

Church of Sweden:

Diocese of Västerås, Bishop Mikael Mogren

MON 13 MAY Diocese of Kiteto

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese. **See article on page 24.**



Aline with the bicycle that's helped her to build a small business. © Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk>

'And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.' (1 Corinthians 13:13)

This familiar verse is a popular reading at weddings and funerals. But for all its familiarity, these words are still powerful, as we recognise that love is such an important force in all our lives – especially through times of great change. Aline's love for her children drove her to transform her life.

Her first step back from the brink came when she participated in a three-day community workshop with Christian Aid funded trainers. Aline learnt how to establish a steady income and make long term plans.

Aline said: *'I came out with amazing knowledge and skills.*

The trainer restored a sense of hope and energy in me.'

With a small start-up loan, Aline started trading avocados and peanuts locally. With her profits, she bought a bicycle so she could transport greater quantities of goods to markets further afield. Eventually, her hard work had earned the money she needed to rent a house and be reunited with her three eldest sons.

Christian Aid Week is a time to demonstrate love through our gifts, prayers and actions. It's a time to let our global neighbours know that our love is with them as they face great challenges and changes.

Jesus, You showed us what love is by laying down your life for us. Help us this Christian Aid Week to reflect that same sacrificial love through generous giving and courageous action for those in need.

Amen.

EPC: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal

Ekiti Kwara (Nigeria)

TUES 14 MAY Matthias the Apostle



Aline provides lunch in her home to her sons and neighbours © Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk>

'O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.' (Psalm 136:1)

Aline's faith has guided and comforted her through the darkest of times. She told us: *'We pray together as we are still alive thanks to God's grace. God comforts you through troubled times and gives you hope for a better future. With God's help you can overcome obstacles and be victorious.'*

The small grocery business that Aline built not only pays for a home for her and her children, but food, clothes and essential healthcare too. Aline's also purchased solar panels so her children can do their

evening homework by electric light, and further their education. Aline's home is a sanctuary for her and her children. A place where they can nurture their ambitions and make plans for the future. A home filled with prayer and praise.

God, whose love endures forever, comfort us when the way is uncertain, guide us and accompany us, through Christian Aid Week and beyond. **Amen.**
Ekiti Oke (Nigeria)

WED 15 MAY Christian Aid Week



Aline carrying bricks that she's kiln baked to build her new home. © Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week <https://www.christianaid.org.uk>

'Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage.' (Psalm 27:14)

Burundi continues to be one of the toughest places on earth to live. The future is uncertain, and challenges wait for families like Aline's around every corner.

As the climate crisis deepens, people in Burundi find themselves in an increasingly precarious position in the face of the droughts, floods and landslides that are becoming more frequent. Burundi's fragile economy is built on agriculture, and many homes are built of unbaked mud bricks. Extreme weather undermines the stability of both, often with devastating consequences.

When a ferocious storm destroyed Aline's home, almost killing her and her children, she was able to recover by selling the cows she'd been keeping. Now when a crisis threatens her family's survival, Aline has options. Even a small business can provide just enough resources to weather a brutal storm in Burundi.

Today, Aline's using her experience to help 25 other families in her community to build their resilience. And she's baking her own bricks to build a strong home for her and her children in every sense.

Jesus, you were able to calm the storm, and save your followers from disaster. Help us to weather the storms we face, to take action against the climate crisis, and to respond to those in need. **Amen.**

Ekiti West (Nigeria)

THURS 16 MAY Christian Aid Week



Aline helping her son Vyukesenge with homework.

© Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk>

'Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.'

(Hebrews 11:1)

Aline pushed back against poverty to survive against all odds. No longer living day-to-day, Aline and her children can plan for a future that they'll build together.

Aline told us: *'I could never have dreamed that I would one day have a brick house and be a successful businesswoman, able to feed and clothe my children. Even if I die today, my children will have a house to live in, and won't be*

wandering around like I was.' She added: *'Education leads to a bright future, and a child should study as much as possible. One of my children dreams of becoming a doctor.'*

Aline can not only look ahead to her children's future now, but her own too. Naturally, Aline wants security as she ages. In the next five years, she hopes to expand her current wholesale business by selling a range of goods, so that one day she can buy a mill. This will provide a source of income without the need to transport heavy goods over long distances. Aline affirmed: *'This is not a dream. It is a plan, and I will do it. I am a woman who is an achiever.'*

Lord, your kingdom is one without end. Inspire us with the vision of justice and peace of life before death of a brighter future. **Amen.**

Caroline Chisholm, social reformer, 1877.

Eldoret (Kenya)

FRI 17 MAY Christian Aid Week



Aline reunited with her three sons, Vyukesenge, Fisto and Irumva. Behind them, the new home they're building together brick by brick in Makamba Province, Burundi. © Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk>

'Learn to do good; seek justice; rescue the oppressed; defend the orphan; plead for the widow.' (Isaiah 1:17)

Aline's long and difficult journey out of extreme poverty was made possible by her courage, determination, tenacity, and love for her children. And it all began with a little support and faith from Christian Aid supporters like you. Aline: *'When we see Christian Aid, we feel comforted; we feel we are not alone. You helped us to change our poor living conditions.'*

Aline's story demonstrates that training and knowledge can fuel lasting change. For

churches and individuals who want to learn more about poverty and how to challenge it, we have a six-session course called Act on Poverty – ideal to use in small groups. Participants gain a deeper understanding of local and global poverty, hear stories of faith and activism that challenge the status quo, and learn how we can all take steps to tackle poverty together.

God, whose voice is heard through so many humble people of faith, open our ears to those who are speaking your truth open our eyes to the realities of poverty around us open our hearts to those you love and help us to reach out and take action. Amen.

Port Elizabeth (Southern Africa)

SAT 18 MAY Christian Aid Week



Giles Goddard addressing protesters at St John's Church, Waterloo on Loss and Damage Action Day.

© Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk>

'Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.' (1 John 3:18)

No longer hidden, persecuted and alone, Aline's risen to become a leader of her community. A spokesperson and champion of those who are pushing back against the inhumanity of poverty. She told us: *'The members [of the community group I chair] thank me for the training and the positive impact it has had on their daily lives. People come to me as they trust me. Here in Burundi, a neighbour is considered a member of the family.'*

Lord, as Christian Aid Week draws to a close, draw together our gifts, prayers and actions and help them to flourish in the world. Bless the efforts of individuals and churches, of politicians and ordinary people, and help these seven days make a difference. Amen.

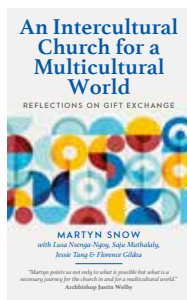
Diocesan Synod and Called Together Service

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
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.

El-Obeid (Sudan)

SUNDAY 19 MAY PENTECOST



On Pentecost, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, who in turn gives us the gifts of prophecy, discernment, teaching, miracles, healing, service, speaking in tongues and the interpretation of tongues, generosity, mercy and faith (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-10; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11). Pentecost also marks the birth of the Christian Church – and the two are very much interwoven. It is the gift of the Spirit which unites us as the Church, and it is the sharing of our gifts with one another which enable us to serve as the Body of Christ.

The Church is not unique in this respect: as I discuss in my book, **An Intercultural Church for a Multicultural World: Reflections on Gift Exchange**, many ancient societies, and many communities today in different parts of the world are built on the exchange of gifts. Here in the West, gift-giving has been largely relegated to the private sphere and is thought of in transactional terms. But in other parts of the world, the giving and receiving of gifts still defines what it means to be part of that community.

And, the writers of the New Testament expected, it be with us as Christians too. God grants us gifts by His grace and through His Spirit for the building up of His Church (1 Corinthians 14:12) – not for our own benefit or ego, but for the common good (1 Cor 12:7). By the same token, none of us can exist without the gifts of others: just as bodies are made up of different and interdependent parts, so does the Body of Christ need the gifts of each of its members, and no gift is superior to another

because none can exist on their own. St Paul was explicit, and quite radical, in explaining that the different gifts which we receive from the one Spirit unite us across ethnic, cultural and class differences (1 Cor 12:12). But even today, biases and prejudices can blind us to the gifts of people who are different from us; and, when the prejudices of the majority group are internalised by a minority group, they can prevent some people recognising even themselves as a gift to others. You may notice, for example, that in your worshipping community, some people find it easier to put themselves forward for different roles than others; and some may be more reluctant to ask for help or for your time, as they may not recognise themselves as worthy of such gifts, especially if they feel they have nothing to offer in return.

Our hope and prayer for the Intercultural Worshipping Communities programme, our racial justice work as a diocese, and indeed my reason for writing the book, is to help overcome those biases and barriers so that, in our worshipping communities, people from all cultural and social backgrounds can learn from and mutually bless one another so we can together better serve the God of all peoples, all languages and all nations.

This Pentecost, why not reflect on:

- The ways in which God has gifted you and how you have used, are using and could use those gifts to bless the wider church.
- How easy you find it to view yourself as a gift, regardless of your status, strengths or failures.

✦ **Martyn Snow** Bishop of Leicester

The Anglican Church of Canada

Church of England: Diocese of Guildford, Bishop Andrew Watson, Bishop Paul Davies

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark: Diocese of Viborg, Bishop Henrik Stubkjær

MON 20 MAY Diocese of Wyoming

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese. **See article on page 36.**

Alcuin, deacon, abbot, 804.

EPC: Indian Ocean Islands

Ely (England)

TUES 21 MAY

Launde Abbey

Revd Alison Myers (Warden), Revd Chris Webb (Deputy Warden), Revd Catherine Wright (Chaplain), Graeme Ostah (Operations Manager), Tristan Owen (Development Manager) & all the staff and volunteers.

Give thanks that so many from all walks of life find the Abbey to be a place of tranquillity, beauty and deep spiritual significance. Pray for our continued work to ensure our ministry develops and is sustainable for the future.

Helena, protector of the Holy Places, 330.

Embu (Kenya)

WED 22 MAY

National Racial Justice Team visit to the Diocese

The Whatborough Parishes

Jayne Lewis (C)

Give thanks for all those contributing to the fundraising at Tilton for the bell frame as this is engaging interest and collaboration between the small church community and wider village. Please pray for similar encouragement in other villages.

Enugu (Nigeria)

THURS 23 MAY

The Coplow Benefice

In vacancy. Andrea Grindley (R), Nathan Booker (R)

Billesdon & Church Langton CE Primary Schools

Prayerful thanks for all PCC members, those in lay ministry, and retired ministers with PTO who are serving and sustaining these church communities. Give thanks for the thriving church choir at Billesdon and especially for young people recently joining it.

Petrioc Enugu North (Nigeria)

FRI 24 MAY

Hallaton & Allextion with Horninghold, Tugby, East Norton & Slawston

In vacancy

Hallaton & Tugby CE Primary Schools

Pray for growing faith in our schools and deepening relationship with local church.

Hallaton: we give thanks for Cafe Morrell which meets every Tuesday in the church. It provides essential friendship to many in the village and surrounding area.

John and Charles Wesley, evangelists, hymn writers, 1791 and 1788.

Esan (Nigeria)

SAT 25 MAY

The Venerable Bede, monk, scholar, historian, 735.

Aldhelm, bishop, 709.

Eswatini (Southern Africa)



John 3:1-17, New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

Nicodemus Visits Jesus

³Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' ³Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' ⁴Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' ⁵Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' ⁹Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' ¹⁰Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?'

¹¹'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about

earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.[i]'

¹⁶'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.'

¹⁷'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

*Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity
and in the power of the divine majesty to
worship the Unity;
keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may evermore be defended from
all adversities;
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.
Almighty and eternal God,
you have revealed yourself as Father,
Son and Holy Spirit,
and live and reign in the perfect unity of love:
hold us firm in this faith,
that we may know you in all your ways
and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,
who are three Persons yet one God,
now and for ever.
Amen.*

The Church of the Province of Central Africa

Church of England: Diocese of Exeter, Bishop James Grier, Bishop Jackie Searle

Church of Norway: Diocese of Nord-Hålogaland, Bishop Olav Øygard

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

See article on page 38.

EPC: Angola, Mozambique

Etche (Nigeria)

The Langtons and Shangton

Maxine Johnson (R) Church Langton C of E School

A marked increase in families attending a Church Service in the Langtons over the Christmas period. This is due primarily, to the sterling work at the Primary School and the new Head Teacher's keenness to involve school and church. The first time ever, the School Christmas service held after school time.

Lanfranc, monk, archbishop, scholar, 1089.

Etako (Nigeria)

Welham, Glooston and Cranhoe and Stonton Wyville

We give thanks for the commitment of the small handful of church members determined to care for their churches with a warm welcome to everyone. *Europe (Church of England)*

Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion (Corpus Christi)

Six Saints circa Holt

Stephen Bishop (C)

Please pray for all who live and work in our villages; for our ministry with families and children; for our links with our primary school; for all who hold office here. *Europe (Episcopal Church)*

Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

Gaulby

In vacancy, Hilary Painter (R)

The Gaulby Group continues to use the churches in Gaulby and Illston for regular weekly services with occasional special services at Kings Norton and Little Stretton. We will be serving teas in Gaulby every Saturday over the summer months. *Evo (Nigeria)*

Justin, martyr, c. 165.

Exeter (England)

SUNDAY 2 JUNE 1ST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY – 5th June 2024

'I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. But you came and defiled my land and made my inheritance detestable.' Jeremiah 2:7 (NIV)

Land restoration is the theme of this year's World Environment Day (June 5th). And how desperately it's needed!

The natural world is suffering from the theft of its natural resources, impoverished by loss of biodiversity and habitat destruction. Soil is depleted by intensive agriculture. We find ourselves in a world where billions of hectares are degraded, affecting almost half the world's population and threatening half of global GDP. As with so many environmental challenges, it's rural communities, smallholder farmers and the extremely poor who are hit hardest.

The climate emergency is bringing repeated flooding to some countries, persistent drought to others. Pollution in our waterways and even in our air hampers recovery. The balance of nature designed by a loving Creator is destroyed by mistreatment.

Land restoration is certainly a biblical idea. Taking action such as soil enrichment, reforestation, conservation and reintroduction of species can replenish the land, build resilience to extreme weather and avoid species extinctions. But land restoration will only be truly effective alongside global action to halt and reverse climate change.

Prayer points

- This year's World Environment Day conference is being hosted by Saudi Arabia, one of many nations facing land degradation, desertification and drought. As a country better placed because of its economy to take strong measures, pray that it sets a good example with beneficial policies having a global reach.
- Pray for recognition by international leaders and their peoples that the earth is ours to cherish, not to exploit.
- Isaiah pictures a time when 'the mountains and the hills will burst into song ... and all the trees of the field will clap their hands' (Isaiah 55:12 NIV). Ask God what we/our church communities can do to make creation a more joyful place.

Lin Ball

Church Eco Team Member, Market Harborough

The Anglican Church of South America

Church of England:

Diocese of Hereford, Bishop Richard Jackson

The Lusitanian Church (Portugal):

Bishop José Jorge Pina Cabral

The Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church

Abroad: Archbishop Lauma Zušēvica

MON 3 JUNE Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

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

See article on page 40.

Martyrs of Uganda, 1885-7, 1977.

EPC: Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa

Cameroon (West Africa)

TUES 4 JUNE Bishop's Leadership Team meeting at The Stablehouse, North Kilworth

Gartree Deanery

Area Dean: Steve Bailey; Lay Chair: Liz Smith

Give thanks for the variety of parishes in the Deanery. Pray for us all as we show and share our faith in our communities, that many would encounter the life transforming love of Jesus.

Petroc, abbot, 6th century.

Faisalabad (Pakistan)

WED 5 JUNE

World Environment Day – 5th June 2024 – see article opposite.

Gartree Deanery PTO Clergy: Mark Aldridge, Tricia Allsopp, Pip Clements, Susan Cooper, Brian Davis, Mohammad Eghtedarian, David Faulks, Ian Gemmell, Martin Hathaway, Alistair Helm, Bernard Higgins, Mary Ireland, Diane Johnson, Peter Mackenzie, Chris Oxley, Cynthia Thomson, Jack Wixon.

Boniface (wynfrith), bishop, martyr, 754.

False Bay (Southern Africa)

THURS 6 JUNE

Foxton with Gumley & Laughton

In vacancy.

We give thanks for the new roof for our historic chancel. We are planning to continue to develop our rural village church with seasonal services and events to help grow our church community.

Fianarantsoa (Indian Ocean)

FRI 7 JUNE

Wistow, Fleckney & Kilby

Philip O'Reilly (C), Paul Garner (R)

Kilby St Mary's & Fleckney CE Primary Schools

Please pray for us as we prepare to bid farewell to our much loved Fleckney Church School headteacher and prepare to welcome the new headteacher at the beginning of the Summer Term. Give thanks with us for our wonderful Church Schools at Fleckney and Kilby and our weekly opportunities to proclaim the Good News to the whole School community.

Florida (Episcopal Church)

SAT 8 JUNE Annual Vocations Day

Thomas Ken, bishop, nonjuror, hymn writer, 1711.

Central Florida (Episcopal Church)



Waiting for the flood to recede on the way south to Kiteto.

Link Diocese of Kiteto, Tanzania
Key prayer points

For people of Kiteto Diocese affected by homelessness and property damage due to flooding from the early rains which never really stopped in February as usual. This is likely to worsen with the longer rainy season starts in March with what are usually more sustained downpours, also exacerbated by El Nino and climate change.

For the diocese as they prepare to choose and appoint a new Bishop, facing the costs of running the two synods needed, the hosting of the consecration service and the Bishop's retirement house.

For the Female Genital Mutilation project run by the Mothers Union and Ezereda, its president and Bishop Isaiah's wife. Pray that the funds needed to support this important humanitarian work can be raised.

For the work of the Eye Clinic. Pray for the new staff, Anna and John and Sister Sara and her assistant Samweli and his wife Rehema. Pray for the sustainable ongoing development of this service to local people to include primary care as well as eye services. Pray for succession planning for Sr Sara so her vision of a new centre on the site can be realised.

For the work of Mtetemela secondary school and Kiteto Christian Centre Infants primary school. Pray for the new manager Pastor Mapinduzi Jonathan as he tries to increase the school rolls.

For the work of Emart, the new training centre for the diocese newly established in the south of the diocese. Pray for the process of establishing the basics: buildings, water and electricity supply. Pray for the establishment of effective training for pastors and evangelists.



Visiting Bishop Isaiah and Ezereda. Dave and Titus Rollet, Dave and Sarah Shepherd.

Background

We visited Kiteto in January 2024. It was shortened by the unusually longer and heavier rainy season, rendering travel difficult and potentially dangerous. Even then the diocese had experienced fatalities. It is one of the poorest areas of Tanzania with most people either semi-nomadic pastoralists or subsistence farmers. They have little or no disposable income to give to the church...

The Diocese of Kiteto covers 13,500 square miles, about the area of Wales and Northern Ireland together. There are only a few tarmac roads in towns and the diocese owns 2 cars, one of which has four-wheel drive, for a population of about 400,000. (The area of Leicestershire and Rutland is about 953 square miles and a population of 1.2m.)

Bishop Isaiah is due to retire next year. The diocese has a responsibility to build him a retirement house. His successor will be consecrated in 2025. He says that his aim is to

ordain women so that they make up at least 50% of the pastors so that this important role of women cannot be undone later!

The Eye Clinic has begun to offer ante and post-natal care with a new midwife Anna and some basic lab services by John. They hope to provide more primary care type services and integrate the offer with the local hospital's. Sr Sara would like a proper primary care clinic on the site and has put together plans.

The two schools based in the diocesan compound in Kibaya have struggled with falling school rolls in recent years. There are plans to tackle this. We continue to support them with bursaries for the children of pastors, who would not otherwise be able to afford an education for their children.

Ezereda explained to us the strategy for ongoing work of the FGM project. This is working through local churches and Mothers Unions to educate the women and then involve pastors and community leaders. They



Teachers and some of the pupils at Mtetemela Secondary School, Kiteto

are tackling the areas where FGM is most common. Already they are having to support and host girls whose parents don't wish them to be cut but who cannot remain in their villages safely. The church is facing practical and financial costs for its stand. Please pray for them and support the MU financially if you can.

Bwana Jesu asifiwe sana!

David Shepherd

Link Co-ordinator, Kiteto, Tanzania

Anglican Church of the Congo

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland:

Bishop Agnes Sigurdardottir, Bishop Kristjan Björnsson, Bishop Gisli Gunnarsson

The Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church:

Bishop Carlos Lopez Lozano

The Lord's Prayer in Swahili

Baba Yetu uliye mbinguni, Jina lako litukuzwe;
Ufalme wako ufike,
Utakalo lifanyike
Duniani kama mbinguni.
Utupe leo mkate wetu wa kila siku,
Utusamehe makosa yetu,
Kama nasi tunavyowasamehe waliotukosea.
Usitutie katika kishawishi,
Lakini utuopoe maovuni.

Amina.

MON 10 JUNE Diocese of Kiteto

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese. **See article on page 24.**

EPC: Botswana, Zimbabwe

Southeast Florida (Episcopal Church)

TUES 11 JUNE House of Bishops meeting

Market Harborough and The Transfiguration - Little Bowden with Lubenham and Great Bowden

Alison Iliffe, Hilary Corcoran, Vicky & Phil Bryson, Pep Hill, Susan Cooper, Alistair Helm, Peter Mackenzie, Cynthia Thomson, Diane Johnson, Tom Grant (C), Elizabeth (Allen (PA-PTO), Angela Hill (PA-PTO), Susan Meadows (R), Lydia Tebbutt (R),

All Saints' Lubenham, Market Harborough CE Primary School & Gt Bowden Academy.
Little Bowden (Community) Primary School.

Barnabas the Apostle.

Southwest Florida (Episcopal Church)

WED 12 JUNE

St Dionysius - Part of Harborough Team

Vicky & Phil Bryson (C)

We give thanks for the many families who came to our Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday. At the time of writing we look forward to our many Easter services and the chance to enable everyone to journey deeper into God through the paschal mysteries.

Fond du Lac (Episcopal Church)

THURS 13 JUNE

Transfiguration St Hugh & St Nicholas - Part of Harborough Team

Alison Iliffe (C), Elizabeth Allen (PA-PTO).

We are a united parish in our mission, ministry and outreach. Please pray for our ministry with Children and families; our Community School; Scout Group' and mission as we work towards re-ordering St Hugh and reach out in our community.

Fredericton (Canada)

FRI 14 JUNE

Great Bowden St Peter & St Paul - Part of Harborough Team

Hills Corcoran (C)

We give thanks for the successful launch of Faith Explorers, our new interactive creative service for all ages using the principles of Godly Play. We pray that this will grow and enable many people to encounter Jesus.

Richard Baxter, puritan divine, 1691.

Free State (Southern Africa)

SAT 15 JUNE

All Saints, Lubenham - Part of Harborough Team

Pip Clements PTO

Give thanks for continuing work of Lubenham Lambs and links with Lubenham All Saints Primary School, Prayer for our church and village events, Open Gardens (June), Lubenham in Bloom (July) and Scarecrows (September) and our role within each group.

Evelyn Underhill, spiritual writer, 1941.

Freetown (West Africa)



Learning Disability Week 2024

The theme for Learning Disability Week this year is **'Do you see me?'** At its heart is ensuring that people with learning disabilities are seen, heard and valued. Robert M Hensel, who was born with the life-long condition Spina Bifida, used his influence to encourage people to look at abilities over disabilities, once saying *'there is no greater disability in society, than the inability to see a person more.'*

Whilst medical advancements mean much more is now known about learning disabilities, their existence is not new. Moses struggled with communication (Exodus 4) and the disciples asked about a man who was born blind (John 9). In fact, the Bible contains many other examples of different disabilities.

When I think about Jesus, I can't help but think that since he spent time with the lonely and vulnerable, then he would have spent time with those with learning difficulties and their carers, knowing that they might have been misunderstood, marginalised and at worst completely rejected by society.

This week, let's join with those raising awareness and pray for people to be seen, heard and valued using the following prayer points:

Seen – Consider how you/your church might support those with learning difficulties, their families and their schools whose needs are often more hidden and unknown and who may feel very isolated and lonely. Use encouragements from Isaiah 61 to fuel your prayers – may the favour of the Lord rest on them and may they display the Lord's splendour.

Heard – Right now many children, families and schools are navigating a SEND system and NHS service that are near breaking point, leaving many disillusioned and lacking the support they need. Please pray for miraculous stories of breakthrough. Please also pray for those raising awareness locally and at a national, governmental level to have wisdom and to see lasting positive change.

Valued – The Bible describes all people as made in God's image (Genesis 1) and as 'God's masterpiece' (Ephesians 2:10). Regardless of disability, we are all created by God, to reflect his nature and to do good works. May our society uphold these individuals and champion them to be and do all they are called to as uniquely gifted individuals, made and loved by God.

Nadine Weedall
SEND Chaplain, Learn Academies Trust

The Anglican Church of Chile

Scottish Episcopal Church:
Diocese of Argyll and the Isles, Bishop Keith Riglin

Church of Ireland:
Diocese of Connor, Bishop George Davison

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:
Diocese of Lolland-Falster, Bishop Marianne Gaarden

Learning Disability Week 2024

Refugee Week <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/> **See article on page 50.**

Diocese of Wyoming

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese. **See article on page 36.**

Samuel and Henrietta Barnett, social reformers, 1913 and 1936.

EPC: Malawi, Zambia

Gahini (Rwanda)

Refugee Week <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/> **See article on page 50.**

Oadby & Great Glen Team Ministry

Steve Bailey, Jon Tearne, Kim Ford, Linda Harwood (C), Janet (Jan) Barlow, as Intercultural Pioneer Minister, Colin Chettle (R), Karen Johnson (R), Roger Flowers (R), Angela Allen (R), Charles Ford (Evng), Louise McGoldrick (Youth)

Bernard Mizeki, martyr, 1896.

Gambella (Alexandria)

Refugee Week <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/> **See article on page 50.**

St Peter's, Oadby

Please pray for those exploring faith in Jesus at the Alpha course and for the young people who are coming to our new youth group. Pray too for an increasing depth of discipleship across the whole church.

Sundar Singh, sadhu (holy man), evangelist, teacher of the faith, 1929.

Gambia (West Africa)

Refugee Week <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/> **See article on page 50.**

St Paul's, Oadby: Please pray for Jan Barlow as she settles into the team and focuses on our Intercultural work and mission. Give thanks for the diverse body of Christ in this place, pray for all to play their part.

Garissa (Kenya)

Refugee Week <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/> **See article on page 50.**

Glen Magna cum Stretton Magna, Carton Curlieu & Burton Overy: Kim Ford (C), Roger Flowers (R), Angela Allen (R), Revd Bernard Higgins (PTO), Gemma Herrick (C&F), Emma Jackson (YW)

Pray for our children's and youth teams as new leaders step into their roles. For our continued partnerships with local schools. For Kim's secondment and for Ben and his family as they move into their next season of ministry.

Gasabo (Rwanda)

Refugee Week <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/> **See article on page 50.**

Alban, first martyr of Britain, c. 250.

Gboko (Nigeria)

SUNDAY 23 JUNE 4TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY



A few months ago, as part of our Near Neighbours funded capacity building work, I worked with a small group of leaders. We were thinking about resting well so that you can work well. I've been strongly impacted by Alex Soojung-Kim Pang on this topic. He writes:

"Rest turns out to be like singing or running. Everyone basically knows how to do it, but with a little work and understanding, you can learn to do it a lot better." Deliberate rest is a key component in living well. Pang uses the example of breathing. Of course, everyone knows how to breathe. But *"learning to breathe more deeply helps athletes compete harder. It helps soldiers and sailors remain calm in battle. It helps musicians sing with greater control. It enables actors and politicians to project their voices."*

Rest, like breathing, is a skill to cultivate.

Pang makes six suggestions for stimulating creativity:

- 1. Four hours** – Pang argues this is the maximum amount of truly creative work we can sustain on a daily basis. Organize your life to maximize those four hours.
- 2. Morning routine** – he argues many people use the early hours of the morning as the

time to be most creative. For some, not really being awake is part of their creativity.

3. Walk – we think best when moving. Sitting can imply stuckness. Standing, walking, moving enables motion and this includes movement towards solutions for complex problems.

4. Nap – the after lunch *"horizontal half-hour"* is recommended as a way of restoring energy.

5. Stop – *"a counterintuitive but effective form of deliberate rest is to stop working at just the right point: to see your next move, but leave it until tomorrow."* The idea is that this means it is easy to start again next day, as you know straight away how to begin.

6. Sleep – essential for being creative. Sleep gives the brain the chance to repair itself, to process the day's events, and solidify memory of new skills. What stops you sleeping well? Can you control some of these things?

Which speaks most to you?

Pray for all those struggling to rest well and for new patterns to emerge over the summer months.

Tom Wilson

Director, St Philip's Centre

The Church of England:

*Diocese in Europe, Bishop Robert Innes,
Bishop David Hamid*

Church of Sweden: Diocese of Visby,

Bishop Erik Eckerdal

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:

*Diocese of Copenhagen,
Bishop Peter Skov-Jakobsen*

MON 24 JUNE Diocese of Trichy

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese. **See article on page 38.**

Birth of John the Baptist.

EPC: Kenya, Tanzania

George (Southern Africa)

TUES 25 JUNE Kibworth with Smeeton Westerby & Saddington

Ludger Fremmer (C), Anne Flower (AM), Eunice Hayes (Evng), Theresa Jackson (AM), Jacki Shorley (AM)

Please pray for the continued growth of Life Groups, provision of a worship leader, children's groups and families to increase and grow. Lord let the outreach of the churches become more effective and fruitful, sharing our lives, faith and love.

Georgia (Episcopal Church)

WED 26 JUNE Ember Tide

Embertide

Ordination retreat begins led by Revd Sue Willetts:

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 your faithful people that in their vocation and ministry each may be an instrument of your love, and give to your servants now to be 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.**

Gippsland (Australia)

THURS 27 JUNE St James the Greater, Leicester

Cyril, bishop, teacher of the faith, 444.

Gitega (Burundi)

FRI 28 JUNE World Day of Prayer

Irenaeus, bishop, teacher of the faith, c.200

Ember Day

Cornerstone Team

Rob Miles, Tom Devas, Steve Ransley, Matthew Creber-Davies

Pray for the growing programme of community activities and outreach through Café Fifty-Five in Thurnby; and for those involved in discipling families across our churches, and all those involved in schools work.

Glasgow and Galloway (Scottish Episcopal Church)

SAT 29 JUNE Peter and Paul, Apostles

Ordination of Priests

Ember Day

Heavenly Father, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women in our Armed Forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; and give them courage to face the perils that beset them; and help them to know that nothing can separate them from your love; in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloucester (England)



Intergenerational Communities Prayer Update

Bishops' Children & Youth Council

In 2023, we began a programme of termly listening exercises, through which we heard from more than 375 young voices, from schools and church groups across the city and county. We discovered from the listening exercise in Spring 2023 that prayer is an important faith practice for children and young people in school, church and at home.

Pray for...

- ...children, young people, and families in your local area.
- ...local schools, teachers, and support staff.
- ...more groups to join our listening exercise in 2024.
- ...young voices to be heard at every level of our Diocese.

Training Opportunities

In 2024, we are excited to be offering new training opportunities for people working with children and young people or exploring a vocation in children or youth ministry. In partnership with the Church of England 30K Project we are hosting Youthscape Essentials training, Catalyst 30K Training and the Future Youth Experience Scheme.

Pray for...

- ...all those of have signed up to these training opportunities.
- ...new vocations in children and youth ministry in our Diocese.
- ...recruitment to future training opportunities.

Ministry Experience Scheme

The overarching aim of the Ministry Experience Scheme (MES) is to give young adults (18s-30s), from all backgrounds, the space and time to test God's calling on their lives. In September we welcomed eight new Ministry Experience Scheme participants to Leicester. This year, we have placements across a range of church traditions in the city and county. Participants are serving across rural ministries, intercultural worshipping communities, children, youth and schools work, worship teams, and social action projects.

Pray for...

- ...our participants as they serve their local church and discern God's call on their lives.
- ...recruitment of new participants for September 2024 cohort.

Matt Long

Youth Engagement &
Intergenerational Communities Enabler
Diocese of Leicester

Ordination of Deacons

The Church of Hong Kong

Church of England: Diocese of Lincoln,
Bishop Stephen Conway, Bishop David Court,
Bishop Nicholas Chamberlain

Church of Sweden: Diocese of Härnösand,
Bishop Eva Nordung Byström

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:
Diocese of Lapua, Bishop Matti Salomäki

MON 1 JULY Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese. **See article on page 40.**

Henry, John and Henry Venn, priests, evangelical divines, 1797, 1813, 1873.

James Pickersgill, Bishop's Chaplain, starting sabbatical for 3 months; for Paul Betts as Interim Chaplain during this time.

EPC: Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda

Gogrial (South Sudan)

TUES 2 JULY Bishop's Leadership Team

Wigston

In vacancy, Chris Johnson, Paul Betts (C); Jenny Barradell (PA-PTO), Gwynne Jones (R-PTO).

All Saints CofE School, Wigston Magna.

Please continue to pray for us during an extended period of vacancy. Please pray also for the ongoing building of relationships with our communities and that we may seek to use our buildings for God's glory and the good of his people

Goma (Congo)

WED 3 JULY Thomas the Apostle

Goscote Deanery

Area Dean: Rob Gladstone; Lay Chair: Stephen Gamble

Please pray...that in the midst of Minster Community Conversations the churches may keep focused on their mission; for the future of the Deanery as parishes join four different Minster Communities.

Gombe (Nigeria)

THURS 4 JULY

Goscote Clergy with PTO: Nigel Elliott, Kerry Emmett, John Leonard, Nicky McGinty, Alison Prince and Michael Webb.

Good Shepherd (Angola)

FRI 5 JULY General Synod Residential

Rothley

Rob Gladstone (C), Valerie Joyce (R-PTO), David Wilson (AM)

Rothley CE Primary School

Please pray...for our ministry at the school; for commitment and spiritual protection for our young families; for evangelism on our new estates; for pastoral care for the bereaved; for those growing into new ministries

Henry, John and Henry Venn, priests, evangelical divines, 1797, 1813, 1873.

Grafton (The Anglican Church of Australia)

SAT 6 JULY General Synod Residential

Thomas More, scholar, and John Fisher, bishop, martyrs, 1535

Grahamstown (Southern Africa)



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?

A Prayer of Benedict of Nursia
Gracious and holy Father,
Please give me intellect to understand you,
reason to discern you, diligence to seek you,
wisdom to find you, a spirit to know you,
a heart to meditate upon you,
ears to hear you, eyes to see you,
a tongue to proclaim you,
a way of life pleasing to you,
patience to wait for you,
and perseverance to look for you.
Grant me a perfect end, your holy presence,
a blessed resurrection, and life everlasting.
Amen.

3 Key Questions – Growing Disciples

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

O God, our heavenly Father, you manifested your love by sending your only-begotten Son into the world, that all might live through him: Pour out your Spirit on your Church, that we may fulfil his command to preach the Gospel to all people. Send forth labourers

into your harvest; defend them in all dangers and temptations; and hasten coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

3 Key Questions – Loving Service

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

Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila
Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.
Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet.
Yours are the eyes, you are His body.
Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.
Amen.

MON 8 JULY General Synod Residential

Diocese of Kiteto

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese. **See article on page 24.**

EPC: Eritrea, Ethiopia.

Rio Grande (Episcopal Church)

TUES 9 JULY General Synod Residential

Sileby, Cossington & Seagrave

Duncan Beet (C)

Cossington CE Primary School

Please pray for our churches as we work out what it is to be a caring and prayerful church that dares to live for Christ. Please pray for our continued outreach and children's work. *Guadalcanal (Melanesia)*

WED 10 JULY

Barkby

Biddy Saunders (C)

Lord, we pray for all of your creation. Bless our village with abundant harvest, healthy livestock and people. Grant us strength to care for your creation with care and gratitude.

Guatemala (Central America)

THURS 11 JULY

Syston & East Goscote

Ros Harper (C), John Leonard (PTO), Sue Essex (AM), Brian Middleton (PA-PTO), John Hewer (R), Mandy Green (Children and Families)

As a new pairing of churches we give thanks for our fellowship together. Please pray for our outreach to families and young people, especially Tots@10 and Little Fishes playgroups as well as our new family gathering Families@4. *Guildford (England)*

FRI 12 JULY

Thurmaston

In vacancy: Mandy Green (Children & Families); Church Hill Junior School.

Please pray for visiting clergy and lay ministers; Living Hope Church (church plant); local schools, Bright Sparks; Soar Valley Food Project; and Thursday Coffee Time. *Guinea (West Africa)*

SAT 13 JULY

Living Hope Church, Thurmaston.

Sheila Langley (R)

Give thanks for growth in our church community and a really encouraging first weekend away as a church plant in the Peaks. We are excited to see how God will continue to use our dads' and kids' Lego breakfast mornings, "Build and Breakfast", to better connect with the local community and point people to the hope we have in Jesus. *Gujarat (North India)*



Link Diocese of Wyoming

'We are an all-embracing spiritual home for everyone, where people come to love and be loved, to grow in faith and spirit, and explore together the spiritual dimension of life.'

The Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming covers the State of Wyoming. The state is mostly rural, with small communities focussed on cattle ranching. Industry is based on coal, oil and gas production. The west of the state is dominated by Yellowstone National Park drawing large numbers of tourists. In the centre of Wyoming is the Wind River Reservation – home to the Eastern Shoshone and Arapaho tribes.

The Diocese has 50 churches and four Wisdom Centres:

- Thomas Apostle Retreat Centre – focussing on the contemplative life
- St Matthew's Cathedral in Laramie
- Wind River Reservation – learning from native culture and spirituality
- Canterbury Fellowship – providing spiritual engagement for students at the University of Wyoming

Many church buildings are of historic significance and serve small and isolated communities. The Episcopal churches are known for their active engagement in social

action providing food banks, drop-in centres, thrift shops, practical assistance for travellers in difficulty and in suicide prevention.

Points for prayer

Art Spirit enables spiritual encounter through a range of art events and projects.



Missional leadership development

for lay and ordained ministers through the 'By Whose Authority' training programme.

Diocesan strategic plan – a consultation process across the diocese to develop a strategy for the flourishing of churches and communities.

Soul Shop – a suicide prevention programme running throughout September

Racial Reconciliation and Social Justice Pilgrimage

Presiding Bishop for the Episcopal Church of the United States – election in June

Liz Rawlings

Parish Transition and Ministry Development Enabler (Vocations and Discipleship)

Spirituality Advisor

The Church of Ireland

Church of England: *Diocese of Newcastle, Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley, Bishop Mark Wroe*

Church of Norway: *Diocese of Møre, Bishop Ingeborg Midttømme*

MON 15 JULY Diocese of Wyoming

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese. **See article opposite.**

House of Bishops meeting

Swithun, bishop, c.862.

Bonaventure, friar, bishop, teacher of the faith, 1274.

EPC: Djibouti, Somalia.

Central Gulf Coast (Episcopal Church)

TUES 16 JULY

Queniborough, Thrussington, Ratcliffe and Rearsby

In vacancy, Ian Hill (C), Amanda Granger (Children And Families Worker).

Schools: St. Mary's, Queniborough, St. Michael & All Angels', Rearsby, & Thrussington School, Thrussington.

Please can you pray for our four village churches and their congregations; we give thanks for all of our committed loyal members who give up their time and money to look after and share in the work of Christ in these Parishes.

Osmund, bishop, 1099.

Osmunf Bishop, Gusau (Nigeria)

WED 17 JULY Birstall and Wanlip

Amanda Digman (C), Gill Pope (PA-PTO), Doreen Wilson (PA-PTO), Lesley Walton (R), Kerry Emmett, Michael Webb (PTO).

We are focussing on our own discipleship; reaching out to Hallam Fields, the schools and wider community; inviting them to a variety of events. We want people to see God's light in us and feel welcomed and loved by God.

Guyana (West Indies)

THURS 18 JULY Diocesan Synod

The Deanery of Akeley East (Loughborough)

Area Dean: Andrew Race; Asst Area Dean: Angela Tarry; Lay Chair: John Dodson.

As we journey towards the formation of Minster Communities, we pray that as we lift our eyes to the horizon to see where God is beckoning, we will not lose sight of what matters to people, places and parishes.

Elizabeth Ferard, deaconess, founder of the Community of St Andrew, 1883. Gwagwalada (Nigeria)

FRI 19 JULY

Akeley East Clergy with PTO: Ruth Brooker, Martin Charles, Steve Delaforce, Charles Dobbin, Susan Forshaw, Paul Hackwood, David Newman, Simon Richards, Simon Richardson, David Stoter, Chris Taylor, Eric Whitley, Rosemary Whitley, Elaine Wykes, Peter Yorkstone.

Gregory, bishop, and his sister Macrina, deaconess, teachers of the faith, c.394 and c.379.

Haiti (Episcopal Church)

SAT 20 JULY

Margaret of Antioch, martyr 4th cent. Bartolomé de las Casas, Apostle to the Indies, 1566.

Hanuato'o (Melanesia)



Link Diocese of Trichy: Reviving Health and Hope

Our link Diocese in India has a long tradition of involvement in health care, supporting the training of nurses and doctors as well as running its own hospitals. They are currently hoping to renovate and reopen the Anne Booth Mission Hospital in Dharapuram, in anticipation of its centenary in 2027. The hospital has a rich history of providing comprehensive medical and spiritual care to the community in one of the poorest and most isolated regions of southern India. However, due to outdated infrastructure and equipment, the hospital's ability to meet modern healthcare standards has diminished, leading to a decline in patient numbers from a peak of over 300 each day to a mere trickle and a disconnect from its sacred mission.

The objectives of the project are to enhance patient care, improve comfort and satisfaction, promote spiritual healing and restore trust in the hospital. The project's sustainability focuses on lasting community well-being through accessible healthcare, job creation, education, and eco-conscious practices.

The scope of work includes infrastructure enhancement, equipment upgrades, facilities improvement, and the addition of a mobile ICU ambulance. The estimated budget for the project is approximately £350,000, covering renovation expenses, equipment procurement, labour costs, and related expenditures.

Prayer pointers:

Thanksgiving for the Church of South India's spirit of service, driven by divine mission

That through this project, they will honour the sacred duty to serve the community with the same love and dedication that has characterized the Church's mission for generations

That a spirit of generosity will enable the success of the fundraising appeal

For all those who struggle to access the health care they need for themselves and their families, through poverty, isolation and inadequate provision.

For more information about this project, or our links with the Church of South India, contact jonathan.kerry@leicestercofe.org

Jonathan Kerry
Diocesan Secretary

The Anglican Church in Japan

Church of Sweden:

Diocese of Skara, Bishop Åke Bonnier

Church of England: Diocese of Leeds,

Bishop Nick Baines, Bishop Tony Robinson, Bishop Anna Eltringham, Bishop Toby Howarth, Bishop Smitha Prasad, Bishop Arun Arora

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese. **See article opposite.**

Mary Magdalene.

EPC: Burundi, DRC, Rwanda

Harare (Central Africa)

TUES 23 JULY

The Barrow and Wolds Group *Clive Watts, Fiona Cotton-Betteridge, Bob Edge (C), Pam Knowles (R-PTO), Rex Shaw (R), David Spencer (AM), Mike Hyde (R).*

Barrow-upon-Soar CE Primary School; Wymeswold CE Primary School.

Pray for the Barrow and Wolds Group as we develop our mission, and discern future Minister Communities. Pray for Jay Jones, to be licensed as Pioneer Minister, and our mission to the new housing developments and families living within those areas.

Bridget, abbess, 1373.

Hawaii (Episcopal Church)

WED 24 JULY East Midlands Bishops

Castle Donington with Lockington cum Hemington. St Edward's Church of England Primary School, Castle Donington, Rachel Lacey (Head), Andrew Race (C), Matt Green, Sue Forshaw, +Peter Fox, Catherine Stray, April Sly.

We give thanks for the work of the church Action Groups who tirelessly work to make connections with the community, offer a warm welcome, reach out to families and children, care for the church buildings, offer pastoral care and deepen our discipleship, as we all seek to journey with Christ and share his Gospel.

Hereford (England)

THURS 25 JULY

Emmanuel, Loughborough *Michael Broadley, Alison (Ali) Walton, (Associate Rector), Kat Marjoribanks Curate, Codra Spencer (R), Loughborough CE Primary School*

Please pray for the three families who have planted into the Good Shepherd congregation as our commitment to plant churches that plant churches. Pray that they will integrate well into their new worshipping community. Pray also for Emmanuel as we continue to focus on discipleship and leadership.

James the Apostle.

Southern Highlands (Tanzania)

FRI 26 JULY

St Barnabas, Grange Park (BMO) *Ben Gardner (C), Paul Chung (AM), Alex Howlett (AM)*

Please pray for our Alpha Course and all guests as they continue to grow in their relationship with Jesus. Pray for our Wake Up Team (monthly Kids church) as they continue to connect with families who are new to Church.

Anne and Joachim, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Highveld (Southern Africa)

SAT 27 JULY

The Good Shepherd, Loughborough *Michael Broadley (C), Tony Harper (R), Jackie Rotter (R-PTO),*

Please pray for the three families who have planted into the Good Shepherd congregation as our commitment to plant churches that plant churches. Pray that they will integrate well into their new worshipping community.

Pray also for Emmanuel as we continue to focus on discipleship and leadership.

Brooke Foss Westcott, bishop, teacher of the faith, 1901.

Eastern Himalayas (North India)

SUNDAY 28 JULY



Link Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro (DMK)

We had the privilege of visiting the Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro (DMK) in January 2024. It is a growing and thriving diocese, serving both the relatively well-off and developed urban areas of Arusha and Moshi as well as vast swathes of bush and savannah, with dispersed villages. Led by bishop Stanley, there is a strong evangelistic focus and dozens of churches have been planted and new disciples baptised in recent years. There is a clear vision to continue with this and to share the love and saving power of God in word and service.

Their church planting strategy is relatively simple and happens in three particular ways:

1. They play the Jesus film in a community (translated into the local language), invite people to respond, and then follow up with those who have made a commitment. They recently did this alongside a medical team so that they could meet immediate medical needs as a demonstration of God's love, too. At other times they have invited people for healing prayer.

The Jesus Film | English | Official Full Movie HD

The Jesus Film is a Christian movie directed by Rice Broocks. It is the first film to present the story of Jesus of Nazareth in an accurate and entertaining way. The film was created by Campus Crusade for Christ International, with the support of the church of Christ. It is based on the Four Gospels



of the Bible – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John ... www.youtube.com

2. They send an evangelist into a community looking for one or two households that are open [people of peace] and then start a small group in that community.

3. Where someone from within a community responds to/ is called by God to be an evangelist they are sent for intensive training at Munguishi and then return to their community to share the gospel and plant a church.

Pray for DMK

Give thanks for the faithful evangelism and gospel witness of DMK and that many are turning to Christ.

Pray for a continued flourishing relationship of mutual edification with DMK.

Recently a church building collapsed due to rains and wind and other new, church buildings are needed. Please pray that they will be resourced.

Rev Dave Rollett | Pioneer Curate

St Mary's Nanpantan and Akeley East Deanery

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania:
Bishop Mindaugas Sabutis

Church of Ireland:
Diocese of Derry and Raphoe,
Bishop Andrew Foster

MON 29 JULY Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese. **See article opposite.**

Mary, Martha and Lazarus, companions of our Lord

EPC: Rep. Congo, Gabon, Sao Tomé

Ho (West Africa)

TUES 30 JULY Bishop's Leadership Team meeting

William Wilberforce, social reformer, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson anti-slavery campaigners, 1833, 1797 and 1846s.

Prayer of William Wilberforce (on his 41st birthday):

"Oh Lord, purify my soul from all its stains. Warm my heart with the love of thee, animate my sluggish nature and fix my inconstancy, and volatility, that I may not be weary in well doing"

Hokkaido (Japan)

WED 31 JULY

Belton, Diseworth, Hathern, Kegworth, Long Whatton and Osgathorpe.

In vacancy. Louise Corke (C), Simon Stevens (PTO), Peter Yorkstone (PTO), Sue Hack (R), Tim Aldsworth (R).

Belton, Diseworth, Hathern & Long Whatton CE Primary Schools.

We give thanks for the presence and work of God in each of our villages and the shared friendship and worship across the churches. We pray for wisdom, honesty and love as the churches work towards the formation of a minster community.

Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, 1556.

Honduras (Episcopal Church)

THURS 1 AUG Loughborough All Saints with Holy Trinity

In vacancy. Adebawale (Debo) Adelaja, (C), Penny Pullan (R), Martyn Davison (R-PTO), David Newman (PTO)

We give thanks for energy and purpose during the vacancy and for all who hold continuing and extra responsibilities, especially the churchwardens, Gwyn and Nicky. We pray for the appointment of a new Rector, for the financing of a new roof, and the growth of our inclusive, intercultural, and intergenerational ministries.

Hong Kong Island (Hong Kong)

FRI 2 AUG

St Mary in Charnwood, Nanpantan

Adele Adshead (C), Dave Rollett (C), Helena Wilkinson (R), Richard Harries (R-PTO)

Please give thanks to God for the many people with whom we have made connections this year and pray we might see people come to faith and grow in depth of discipleship.

Horn of Africa (Alexandria)

SAT 3 AUG

Hpa-an (Burma)



5 Diocesan Priorities

Diocesan Strategic Priorities - Intercultural Communities

An Intercultural Worshipping Community is a church community where people from different cultural and ethnic heritages deliberately interact with one another in order to deepen their understanding and experience of God and of each other. They learn and grow together to build communities which are transformed, shaped, and moulded from each other's experiences. As well as having a number of dedicated Intercultural Worshipping Communities, we would like all our church communities to be increasingly become places where people of all backgrounds are fully welcomed and supported to participate in mission and ministry.

May the God who created a world of diversity and vibrancy, Go with us as we embrace life in all its fullness. May the Son who teaches us to care for strangers and foreigners, Go with us as we try to be good neighbours in our communities. May the Spirit who breaks down our barriers and celebrates community, Go with us as we find the courage to create a place of welcome for all.
Amen.

Diocesan Strategic Priorities - Intergenerational Communities

Part of our priority as a diocese to create Intergenerational Communities includes putting children, young people and families at the heart of our mission and ministry – by listening to the voices of children and young people, giving them opportunities to deepen their discipleship, and building close relationships with church and community schools.

Loving God, We bring to you the children, young people and families of our nation. We pray for those who are already know they are your children. Please protect them, bless them and keep them firm in their faith.

We pray for those who would like to find out more about you. Please provide ways for them to do that and help us all to play our part. We pray for those who know little or nothing about Christian faith. Please stir up curiosity in them to find out more and in your mercy give them encounters with you that transform their lives.

Amen.



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.

Heavenly Father, we pray for your blessing on all those involved in pioneering, church-planting, and evangelism in our diocese: Fill them with wisdom, patience, perseverance, humility and courage. Enable them to share their gifts generously.

Give them curious minds and compassionate hearts to see the face of Christ in all whom they encounter. Inspire them with your love that they may worthily minister in the name of Your precious Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.



Diocesan Strategic Priorities – Reconciling Communities

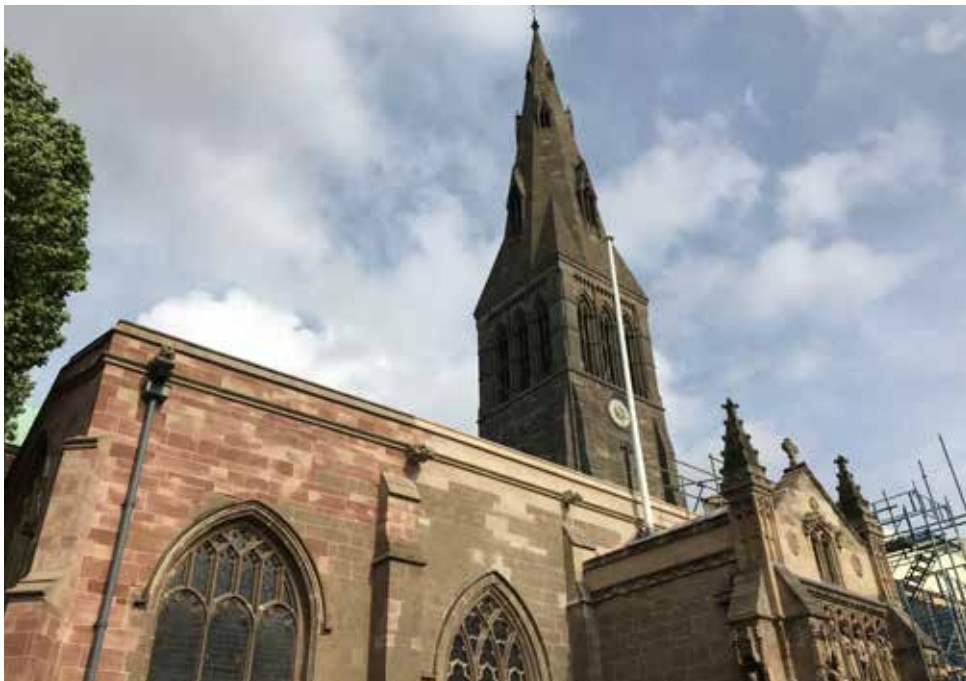
In seeking to become Reconciling Communities, we hope to model the restoration of relationships with one another, with creation, and with God which is the heart of the gospel, and to embody the unity and diversity of the Triune God in whose image we are individually and corporately made.

Loving God, you have reconciled us in Christ Jesus and have given us the ministry of reconciliation. We pray for all those from whom we are estranged.

Bring healing to strained or broken relationships. Forgive us for the times we have wronged others, whether by ignorance, neglect, or intention. Grant us the courage and the grace to seek their forgiveness and opportunity to make amends.

Where others have wronged us, grant us a gracious spirit, that we might forgive even as we have been forgiven in Jesus Christ.

Amen.



Diocesan Strategic Priorities - Eco Communities

An Eco Community is a worshipping community which recognises and embodies caring for creation as intrinsic to the Gospel through:

- Obedience to God's command to care for God's creation and enable it to flourish.
- Worship to join with all creation in worshipping our Creator through our prayer, praise and practice.
- Discipleship to follow the example of Christ by living in full relationship with God, each other and all of creation, with a commitment to actively learning together.
- Justice to recognise the global effect of the environmental crisis and to advocate for those most affected by climate breakdown.

Eternal God, whose Spirit moved over the face of the deep bringing forth light and life; by that same Spirit, renew your creation, and restore your image in your people. Turn us from careless tenants to faithful stewards, that your threefold blessing of clean air, pure water and rich earth may be the inheritance of everything that has the breath of life and one generation may proclaim to another the wonder of your works; through Jesus Christ, your living Word, in whom the fullness of your glory is revealed. Amen.

MON 5 AUG Diocese of Kiteto

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese. **See article on page 24.**

Oswald, king, martyr, 642.

EPC: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea

Huron (Canada)

TUES 6 AUG Transfiguration of Our Lord

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)

Christ Church & St Peter's CE Primary School, Mountsorrel; Swithland St Leonard's CE Primary School.

Please pray for the building of good relationships following our Summer outreach events including Summer-24 week of activities in Mountsorrel and Open Church events in Swithland. Pray that through these relationships, people would come to faith in Jesus.

Hyderabad (Pakistan)

WED 7 AUG

Quorn

In vacancy (C), Dawn Daly (R)

St Bartholomew's CE Primary School; Rawlins College (Academy)

Please pray for St. Bart's United Church as we navigate our third year of interregnum. May our team continue to have energy and may the visiting ministers continue to assist us. May our pastoral care programme take root.

John Mason Neale, priest, hymn writer, 1866.

Ibadan (Nigeria)

THURS 8 AUG

Shepshed & Oaks in Charnwood

In vacancy. Michael Torne (R); Richard Rock (R); Diane Melton (PA)

St Botolph's CE Primary School; Newcroft Primary School

Both churches energetically involved with the Minister Communities – Shaped by God Project, Joint benefice services gaining strength with rising attendances. Associate Priest, John Bird, transitioning to PTO in October with a sabbatical from Easter to 1st October 24.

Dominic, priest, founder of the order of Preachers, 1221.

Ibadan North (Nigeria)

FRI 9 AUG

Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union, 1921.

Ibadan South (Nigeria)

SAT 10 AUG

Laurence, deacon, martyr, 258.

Dominic, Ibba (South Sudan)



Launde Abbey Companions

Would you like to be a Launde Abbey Companion – and play a vital role in supporting the Abbey’s work?

Launde Abbey is no ordinary place: for over 900 years it’s been a place of sanctuary and prayer, of hospitality and community. And today the Abbey continues to offer tranquillity, beauty and deep spiritual significance to so many people from all walks of life.

At the heart of the Abbey’s life is community. This includes all those who share in our daily life: those who live on site and the permanent staff, each day’s visitors and guests. But there’s also a much wider community of volunteers and others who contribute to our life spiritually, practically and financially. These are our valued ‘Launde Abbey Companions’.

The word ‘companion’ comes from the Latin roots com (with) and panis (bread); a companion is a fellow traveller who breaks bread with you. Our Companions are people who share the life of the Abbey community, who pray for us, who give time to us, and who support us financially. People like you. The Abbey relies on your generosity and friendship to enable us to fulfil our mission: the offer of prayer, hospitality, community and sanctuary to all who come through our doors.

Become a Launde Abbey Companion and as part of this wider community:

- We will keep you in touch with the life and work at the Abbey via a bi-monthly Companions newsletter.
- We will offer you priority booking for selected retreats and other events.
- You will be invited to a special event or two during the year.
- You will be able to visit the Chapel for prayer outside of public service times.

To join the Companions for the next year we suggest a small donation and you can flex the amount up or down – it’s up to you. All the details can be found via www.laundeabbey.co.uk.

We’d love you to join us – do pray about this opportunity.

Revd Alison Myers
Warden

The Anglican Church of Korea

Church of England:

Diocese of Portsmouth, Bishop Jonathan Frost

Church of Sweden:

Diocese of Stockholm, Bishop Andreas Holmberg

MON 12 AUG Diocese of Wyoming

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese. **See article on page 36.**

Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer: Chief Executive’s Office; Jonathan Kerry, Andy Brockbank, Claire Bampton, Barry Hill and Lynn Gerighty.

EPC: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger

Idah (Nigeria)

TUES 13 AUG

Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer: Archdeacons Office; Claire Wood, Richard Worsfold, Richard Trethewey, Kim Ford, Chris Johnson and Phil Leech.

Prayers for Wendy Dunnington following her retirement after years of dedicated service.

Jeremy Taylor, bishop, teacher of the faith, 1667.
Florence Nightingale, nurse, social reformer, 1910.
Octavia Hill, social reformer, 1912.

Idaho (Episcopal Church)

WED 14 AUG Archbishops and Diocesan Bishops Residential

Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer: COUNSELLORS; Coordinator - Anissa Chung; Associate Counsellors - Donna Aspinshaw, Deanne Gardner, Emma Harrison, Richard Kettleby, and Karen Wormald.

Maximilian Kolbe, friar, martyr, 1941.

Ideato (Nigeria)

THURS 15 AUG

The Blessed Virgin Mary
Almighty and everlasting God, who stooped to raise fallen humanity through the child-bearing of blessed Mary: grant that we, who have seen your glory revealed in our human nature and your love made perfect in our weakness, may daily be renewed in your image and conformed to the pattern of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Idoani (Nigeria)

FRI 16 AUG

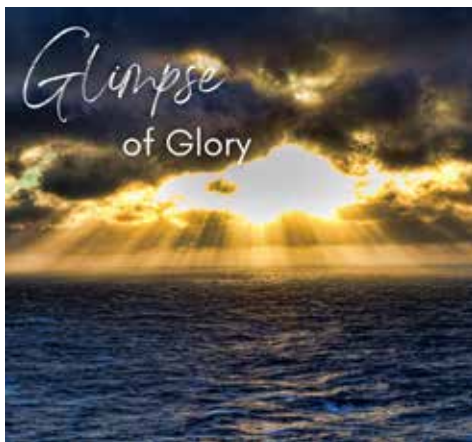
Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer: Property & IWCs; Mark Jowsey, Lesley Whitwell, Dinta Chauhan, Jessie Tang, Luke Fogg and Michael Ravuri.

Ife (Nigeria)

SAT 17 AUG

Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer: Church Buildings Team & IT; Gill Elliott, Rupert Allen and Phil Ash.

Ife East (Nigeria)



- Once people feel able to articulate their feelings, both hopeful and fearful, and then feel able to hand that to God

For all of these things, and many more, I give God thanks. And pray for ongoing comfort and inspiration from God in the many formation processes unfolding across our diocese.

Beth Cluer
Senior Parish Transition Officer



The Anglican Church of Melanesia
Church of Ireland: *Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, Bishop Ferran Glenfield*
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:
Diocese of Aarhus, Bishop Henrik Wigh-Poulsen

Glimpses of God's Glory in the Minster Community Formation Process

The process of forming Minster Communities has some times of lament, anxiety and confusion.

But there are also times full of hope and conversations that offer glimpses of God's glory. Here are a few examples...

- Moments in which individuals from different church communities realised their shared experiences and begin to feel less alone.
- Times when trust is built between people from different contexts, people who may never have come together before.
- As church members share their stories and begin to see overlaps and ways they share a common mission.
- When things that feel impossible alone suddenly begin to feel possible in community.
- When leaders feel empowered by the opportunities working with others could bring.

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese. **See article on page 38.**

Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer: Finance & Generous Giving; Simon Wilson, Jim Pullen, Adil Qassam, Sonal Pankhania, Sally Taylor and Ariel Baker.

EPC: Liberia, Sierra Leone

Ifo (Nigeria)

TUES 20 AUG

Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer: Safeguarding; Rachael Spiers, Julie Foulds, Peter Holloway and Louise Warner.

Bernard, abbot, teacher of the faith, 1153

William and Catherine Booth, founders of the Salvation Army, 1912, 1890.

Igbomina (Nigeria)

WED 21 AUG

Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer: DBE; Carolyn Lewis, Tracey Manns, Nina Radford and Lindsey Bowe.

Igbomina West (Nigeria)

THURS 22 AUG

Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer: Cathedral; Karen Rooms, Alison Adams, Emma Davies, Manuela Schmucki, Rebecca Pawley, Rebecca Hale, Andrew Radford, Christopher Ouvry-Johns, Adaeze Ebodili, Ben Ward, Lucy Haigh, Elly Childs, Molly Hale, Les Mitchelmore, Carys Underdown, Simon Bentley, Trevor Peel, Mary Green, Jude Taylor, Francesca Pellegrino, David Cowan, Louise Davis, David Pepworth, Bev Collett, Rosie Vinter, Hannah Merritt and Sally Piper.

Ihiala (Nigeria)

FRI 23 AUG

Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer: Social Responsibility; Florence Gildea, Karen Sly and Rebecca Pawley.

Ijebu (Nigeria)

SAT 24 AUG

Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer: Parish Transition & Ministry Development; Stuart Burns, Liz Rawlings, Beth Cluer, Rob Hay, Claire Stapleton, Matt Long, Sue Willetts, Alastair Michaelwaite, Jonathan Dowman, Gemma Starkings, Abbie Allen, Anna Bland, Mariam Qassam and Louise Corke.

Bartholomew the Apostle.

William and Catherine Booth, founders of the Salvation Army, 1912, 1890. Ijebu South West (Nigeria)



Refugee Week

Refugee Week (17th-23rd June 2024)

Please pray for those migrants who have fled from dangerous places in the world and who don't yet have a settled home. Home can be a place of refuge, a feeling or a state of mind. It can be found in smells, tastes and sounds. From the clothes we wear to the words we grew up with. It's in food, music and arts. It's in our cultures and in our landscapes. Pray that those whose home has been disrupted will find peace. Pray especially for children who have been displaced and for whom the trauma can have so much impact on their development. Pray that they will receive the gift at least of a single gesture of care and welcome.

Pray for those who work for the agencies and government bodies that try to organise support for refugees, that they will do this with compassion.

Pray that this Refugee Week we will be led to extend our warmth and hospitality beyond our own homes to develop neighbourhoods that are more welcoming and safer.

Our home is also global. We are interconnected; we share the earth's resources, climate and its challenges. As we know millions of people are being displaced from their homes because of the climate crisis. Pray for scientists and NGOs, communities and individuals exchanging knowledge, both new and traditional, to help us in practical ways to build hope for the future.

Roz
from Roots & CitizensUK

The Anglican Church of Mexico

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:
Diocese of Espoo, Bishop Kaisamari Hintikka

Scottish Episcopal Church:
Diocese of Edinburgh, Bishop John Armes

MON 26 AUG Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese. **See article on page 24.**

Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer: St Martins House; Nigel Jobson, Sean Ryan, Dani Blair, Veronica Ponte, Janette Sturgis, Migel Bromfield, Sinade Hartley, Clare Marson, Mo Shueai, Anette Cleur, Carol Lunn, Madhu Gautum, Yvette Kew-Moss, Jonathan Lees, Paul Weston, Pierce Doody, Tim Weedon, Darren Underwood, Marie Redden, Pamela Rogers and Abbie Allen.

EPC: Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Senegal.

Ijebu North (Nigeria)

TUES 27 AUG

Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer: Bishop's Lodge; +Martyn Snow, +Saju Muthalaly, Ellie Cox, Peter Collett, Florence Gildea, Tabz Fogg, James Pickersgill (sabbatical) & Paul Betts (Interim Chaplain).

Monica, mother of Augustine of Hippo, 387.

Ijesa North East (Nigeria)

WED 28 AUG

Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer: Launde Abbey; Tamsin Blair, Mark Goode, Curtis Paul, Helen Whitehead, Sue Bichard, Charlotte Boddy, Sarah Burgess, Pam Chamberlain, Claire Champion, Thomas Fagan, Amanda Goode, Bridget Hodgson, Nat Martins, Jane Parr, Carolyn Pembleton, Pam Redhead, Phoebe Tucker, Catherine Uff, Pat Bass, Chris Willetts, Wendy Farmer, Jean Gill, Sue Sharp, Caroline Green, Sarah Uff, Zoe Walker, Patsy Ward, Karen Johnson, Lucy Young, Elizabeth Smith, Mhairi Brown, Jane Cowan, Nicola Heath, Alison Myers, Myron Nykolyszyn, Graeme Ostah, Ann Prescott, Tristan Owen, Sharon Tait, Chris Webb and Elaine Wyspianski.

Augustine, bishop, teacher of the faith, 430.

Ijesha North (Nigeria)

THURS 29 AUG

Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer: St Philip's Centre; Tom Wilson, Riaz Ravat, James Blackhall, Ben Smith, Barbara Cairns, Ramila Chauhan, Ruth Sinhall, Vivienne Froggatt and Maureen Hebblewhite.

Beheading of John the Baptist.

Ijumu (Nigeria)

FRI 30 AUG

Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer: Pioneers; Sharon March, Kat Gibson, Shoba Gosa.

John Bunyan, spiritual writer, 1688.

"You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed. Pray often, for prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge to Satan."

John Bunyan

Ika (Nigeria)

SAT 31 AUG

Aidan, bishop, missionary, 651.

Ikara (Nigeria)

Launde Abbey

Café

Take time out to soak up the tranquil and beautiful surroundings of Launde Abbey. Or for the more active, stride out and explore the rolling hills and woodland in this unspoilt corner of Leicestershire. Whatever your activity, come and find refreshment at the Launde Abbey café which serves a hot and cold menu and homemade cakes daily.



Away Days

Considering a parish or deanery away day this year? Or maybe your own private retreat? Come and experience the sanctuary that is Launde Abbey. Contact the team and we will help you plan your day.



For more information and to book please call or see our website

01572 717254

www.laundeabbey.org.uk



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