

# PRAYER DIARY

JANUARY - APRIL 2023



Diocese of  
Leicester



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

# Retreats

## January - April 2023 at Launde Abbey

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

Launde Abbey, East Norton  
Leicestershire, LE7 9XB

**EPIPHANY** 06-08 Jan  
*In this darkest season of the year, we will reflect on the Light revealed both in scripture and our stories, and explore what God's Spirit might be saying to each of us through them as 2023 begins.*

**LIVING WITH LOSS** 13-15 Jan  
*Come and join with others who have also experienced life-changing loss through bereavement.*

**TEXTILES** 16-20 Jan  
*Jesus said, "I Am The Gate": Meeting God at thresholds and crossing places.*

**COME TO ME** 06-09 Feb  
*Spiritually led retreat with Bishop John Stroyan.*

**LENT RETREAT** 06-09 March  
*Spiritually led retreat with Launde Clergy Team.*

**BEGINNERS' RETREAT** 17-19 March  
*Semi-silent retreat weekend is to help you enter the world of silent retreats gently and with plenty of support.*

**HOLY WEEK** 03-06 April  
*During this retreat we'll be walking the road to Calvary as we trace the story in the gospels through reflections, prayer, meditation and silent contemplation.*

**ICON PAINTING RETREAT** 01-05 May  
*Join us for this five day icon painting course with experienced iconographer, Peter Murphy.*

**LOOK AT THE BIRDS** 09-12 May  
*Jesus told his followers to "look at the birds of the air" - a bird watching retreat with Mark Winter.*



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## FOREWORD FROM BISHOP OF LOUGHBOROUGH



As I write this foreword for the Diocesan Prayer Diary, it is precisely one year since it was announced that I would be the next Bishop of Loughborough. Over the course of the year, I have been in over one hundred churches, schools, community centres and chaplaincies across Leicestershire. Not a single day goes by when I do not see the hand of God, sometimes like fireworks in the sky and on other days like a fragile flickering lamp. What I see has propelled me to hope, watch and pray.

I first learnt to pray on my mother's lap. She is a Syrian Orthodox Christian and worked as a nurse in a leprosy hospital in Bengaluru, India. It was a broken place where ostracised people were placed in so many ways. Each morning in the nurses' quarters where we lived, my mother switched on a Christian radio programme called 'Athmeeya Yathra', translated as Spiritual Journey. As part of her daily devotions, I clearly remember my mother praying and asking God to help her serve well.



Intercessory Prayer, inspired by her Syrian Orthodox theology of a crucified God, enabled her to enter situations of pain and see the world of brokenness through God's eyes. Prayer enabled her to make sense of the bewilderment of her world. In our liminal spaces where there is so much 'cloud of unknowing' may we know, in Prayer, a God who is unchanging, whose love, grace, mercy and forgiveness towards us are unwavering.

In this season, may we find inspiration in the words of John Chrysostom, who wrote,

"The potency of Prayer hath subdued the strength of fire; it had bridled the rage of lions, hushed the anarchy to rest, extinguished wars, appeased the elements, expelled demons, burst the chains of death, expanded the gates of heaven, assuaged diseases, repelled frauds, rescued cities from destruction, stayed the sun in its course, and arrested the progress of the thunderbolt. Prayer is an all-efficient panoply, a treasure undiminished, a mine which is never exhausted, a sky unobscured by clouds, a heaven unruffled by the storm. It is the root, the fountain, the mother of a thousand blessings".

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

*+ Saju Loughborough*

**+Saju Muthalaly**  
Bishop of Loughborough





### Shaped by God Together an update

In October 2021, Diocesan Synod formally agreed to the proposal to create 20-25 Minster Communities across the Diocese of Leicester. This came after a year-long process of local conversations and story gathering which in turn led to working groups looking at the future shape of ministry as well as finance and church buildings. So it is timely to remind ourselves of why we are doing this and what progress is being made.

So firstly, a reminder of why we are doing this. In my own mind, there are three particular reasons:

#### 1. Everyday Faith

Our vision for the kingdom of God requires that we continually ask the question of how our churches and schools are equipping people to live out their everyday faith. Given the rapid changes in society, the church too must be open to change. During the pandemic, we focussed on equipping people to live their everyday faith in the extraordinary circumstances of lockdown – online worship, online social groups, telephone calls to the lonely, supporting people working from home. Now post-pandemic, we must continue to ask questions about what 'everyday faith' looks like for Christians in Leicestershire.

In addition, we now have clear priorities which we want to resource in the coming years:

**1. new communities** – re-imagining church for those who don't do church

**2. intercultural communities** – reimagining church as a place where people of different cultures worship, celebrate and share together



**3. intergenerational churches** – reimagining church as a place where people of different ages worship, celebrate and share together

**4. eco-communities** – reimagining church as a place where creation is celebrated and nurtured

**5. reconciling communities** – reimagining church as a place where people with different views live well together.

#### 2. Wellbeing

Our concern for the wellbeing of clergy and lay ministers means that we cannot go on simply demanding more and more of them. Since the pandemic, we've seen a large increase in the number of clergy and lay ministers seeking support for issues such as stress, mental health problems and burnout. In addition, some of our churches are struggling to find people willing to take on the responsibilities of Churchwarden, Treasurer, Secretary etc. We cannot deny that our church buildings are a wonderful blessing, but they also require a lot of work and a lot of money to keep them in good condition. So we have a significant challenge in terms of buildings and finance, and the wellbeing of our ministers.

Our conclusion is that we want to encourage much more team working so that there is mutual support and encouragement as well as a sharing of the load. So each Minster Community will have a team of stipendiary clergy and employed lay ministers whose role will be to support unpaid ordained and lay ministers in each church. So we aim to ensure that every church has their own minister (in many cases discerned from within their own community) and has the support of a wider team.



#### 3. Children and Young People

Arguably the most significant change in this whole process is that we want to place schools at the heart of all we do. Too often in the past, we have focused on our church communities with much talk of 'aging congregations'. Yet we have 97 church schools in the diocese, and there are more children and young people in these schools than there are adults in church on a Sunday.

Our schools are required to have 'collective worship' and a 'distinctively Christian ethos'. In addition, all children have RE lessons which are centred on Christianity while also preparing them for life in a diverse society. They are regularly inspected to ensure they fulfil these requirements. And our secondary schools include extracurricular activities such as the Archbishop of York's Young Leaders' Award.

In addition to this, we provide chaplains for our universities, colleges and some of our schools. These chaplains are in regular contact with thousands of young people who don't come to church yet are deeply 'spiritual'!

So we hope to include school leaders and chaplains in our Minster Communities to ensure that the needs of children and young people are central to all we do. This does not mean that we expect these young people to come to our churches on Sunday. It is far more likely that their





'church' will be an after-school group, much more akin to a fresh expression of church.

During 2022 we have begun piloting this approach in three areas of the diocese. We are learning a lot through these pilots, and we aim to share this learning in early 2023 before we decide how to roll out the Minster Community process more widely in the diocese. Please pray for all those involved in the pilots and the diocesan support staff who are facilitating these conversations.

**+Martyn Snow**  
Bishop of Leicester

The Anglican Church of Mexico

**Myanmar** (Burma)

**Church of England:** Diocese of London, Bishop Sarah Mullally, Bishop Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy, vacancy – bishop of Kensington, Bishop Rob Wickham, Bishop Jonathan Baker, Bishop Ric Thorpe, Bishop Joanne Grenfell.

**Church of Norway:** Diocese of Nidaros and Trondheim, Presiding Bishop Olav Fykse Tveit, Bishop Herborg Oline Finnset

### A PRAYER FOR SHAPED BY GOD TOGETHER

Eternal God,  
You call your people to fullness of life in you  
and promise to be with us  
in all the changing scenes of life:  
may we be shaped by you in our lives  
and communities to refresh the Church,  
transform the world, and build the kingdom,  
as with thanksgiving for the past,  
we step out in hope and trust into your future;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## MON 2 JAN Diocese of Kiteto

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

Ondo (Nigeria)

## TUES 3 JAN City of Leicester Deanery

**Area Dean: Liz Wilson; Assistant AD: Adrian Jones; Lay Chair: Les Mitchelmore**

We give thanks for all our churches who are working to prevent poverty within the city, supporting food banks and being places of warm welcome. We pray especially for our parishes in vacancy, for their church wardens and PCC's and all who minister to their local communities.

Ontario (Canada)

## WED 4 JAN The Martyrs, Leicester

**Bertin Hermo (C), Philippa Taylor (C), Shayne Ardron (R), Chris Freeman (R), David Shepherd (R), Michael Dampier (R-PTO), Margaret Farrell (PA), Peter Coopey (PA), Shobha Gosa (Intercultural Pioneer Minister)**

Give thanks for our growing Student and Young Adult ministry and also for our new Curate, Philippa Taylor. Please pray for new families who have joined us in recent months - for them to experience friendship and belonging within the Martyrs.

Oregon (Episcopal Church)

## THURS 5 JAN St Chad

**Martin Court (C), Clare King (C)**

Pray for our exploration of a possible Minster Community - for wisdom and discernment in the process and a willingness to look for the positives. Also, for the proposed redevelopment of the church building to increase provision for the local community.

Eastern Oregon (Episcopal Church)

## FRI 6 JAN St Peter, Highfields and St Philip Leicester

**Jonathan Surrige (C), Kas Brown (C)**

Please pray for our Benefice as we are swamped by demands caused by the winter fuel crisis and rising cost of living. For the radio station, our Saturday Feeds, the partners who support it, financially and practically, for ourselves as we struggle with the inadequacy of our response.

Orlu (Nigeria)

## SAT 7 JAN

Oru (Nigeria)





### Leicester Cathedral Revealed

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

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

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



Good progress is being made. External stonework repair and restoration has been completed on the south façade, including installing four striking new grotesques high up on the parapet wall. Inside the Cathedral a limecrete floor slab has been laid to create a breathable base for the new limestone floor. Internal scaffolding is in place and high-level works for the new lighting and redecoration are advancing. Archaeological excavations have been undertaken and these have revealed fascinating information and insights into the lives of those who lived in Leicester over past centuries. With archaeology complete, construction of the basement for the new Chapter House can get underway.

Significant cost overruns are being encountered in a number of key areas including archaeology and asbestos removal, putting additional demands on what was always going to be a challenging project.







It is hoped to re-open the Cathedral in the autumn of 2023 and then the new Chapter House in the spring of 2024.

**Simon Bentley**  
Project Director for Leicester Cathedral Revealed

**Please pray for:**

- Cathedral staff and volunteers involved with the project
- Contractors and Consultancy Teams undertaking the complex building works
- Ongoing efforts to secure the funds needed to complete the project

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:**  
Diocese of Oulu, Bishop Jukka Keskitalo

**Church of Norway:** Diocese of Sør-Hålogaland (Bodø), Bishop Ann-Helen Fjeldstad Jusnes

**Church of England:** Diocese of Coventry, Bishop Christopher Cocksworth, Bishop John Stroyan.

**MON 9 JAN** Diocese of Trichy

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.  
Diocesan Staffing extended breakfast briefing.

*Osaka (Japan)*

**TUES 10 JAN** St Denys, Evington

**Anthony Lees-Smith (C), Geraldine Moulden (R), Sian Rigby (R)**

Give thanks with us for Sarah Gregory our Youth and Community Worker and for the growth we are seeing in our toddler group, youth work and schools work. Pray for the Sunday afternoon Café Church and the team running it.

*Osun (Nigeria)*

**WED 11 JAN** St Philip's Centre for Study & Engagement in a Multifaith Society

**Tom Wilson & all staff**

Please pray for wisdom, insight, courage and empathy as we play our part in building cohesive and supportive relationships after the recent disorder in the city. We give thanks for people of peace from many different communities.

*Osun North (Nigeria)*

**THURS 12 JAN** Humberstone and Thurnby Lodge

**In vacancy: Viv Froggatt (R), Evernice Tirivanhu (R/Evng), Kath Bamford (Children & Families Worker)**

Please pray for power to our mission in schools, Danbury Gardens and everywhere: for peaceful understanding within our community groups, ethnicities and cultures: for vision, wisdom and grace to explore minster communities: for growth in faith and love of God.

*Osun North East (Nigeria)*

**FRI 13 JAN** The Resurrection, Leicester

**In vacancy: Sister Beverley CSF, Sister Christine CSF, Chrispal Anand (R) St Peter's, Belgrave CE Primary School**

Pray for the growth of our church, and financial stability as we struggle with it; for local faith communities in Leicester so that we may all live in unity, harmony and peace, valuing each other traditions and customs and respect each other regardless of their backgrounds.

*Ottawa (Canada)*

**SAT 14 JAN**

*Otukpo (Nigeria)*



## SUNDAY 15 JAN

### World Religion Day

One of the aspects of my role as director of the St Philip's Centre that I really enjoy is the opportunity it gives me to learn how others see the world. I may not agree with them, but hearing their views helps me develop a clearer understanding of what I think. When, for example, I experience hospitality in a gurdwara (it's impossible to leave without being fed), I'm forced to re-evaluate how hospitable I am. Or when a Muslim friend talks about the blessing of fasting, it makes me question how seriously I take Jesus' call to sacrificial discipleship. When a Hindu friend tells me of the five ways which she might show love for Krishna (in neutrality or as a servant, parent, friend, or lover) it forces me to stop and think about the resonances and dissonances with my own Christian faith.

One of the more painful experiences has been delving deeply into the sad history of Christian antisemitism, which forced me to recognise that Christians have not always shared the Good News of Jesus in ways that were heard, or experienced, positively. I could go on. What does it mean to live as a tiny minority, where most people do not even know your faith exists, never mind what it means to follow it? (How much do you know about the Bahai faith? Or what it means to be a Jain?).

If we mark World Religions Day, there's no particular expectation we all see the world the same way. There's likely to be plenty we agree and disagree about. The point is rather that by spending time with someone who

sees the world differently from the way we do, both of us, and society, is enriched. So who could you spend time with this week?

#### Revd Dr Tom Wilson

Director, St Philip's Centre

*Confirmation at St Nicholas,  
Market Harborough*

*The Church of Nigeria*

#### Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:

*Diocese of Tampere, Bishop Matti Repo*

#### Church of England:

*Diocese of Manchester, Bishop David Walker,  
Bishop Mark Ashcroft, Bishop Mark Davies*



## MON 16 JAN Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

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

Bishops Council Meeting

*Owerri (Nigeria)*

## TUES 17 JAN College of Bishops Meeting

+Martyn and +Saju ask for your prayers for wisdom, unity, discernment, collegiality and for the outcomes of the Living in Love and Faith discernment as it continues onto General Synod.

*Owo (Nigeria)*

## WED 18 JAN All Saints, Belgrave

### Sunny George (C), Anita Dulkoan (Evng), Sham Kalsi (Evng)

You call us Lord to serve. We give thanks for allowing us to be your hands, heart and feet through our Food Pantry. Enable us not to abandon those in need and may we see you in each person we meet.

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**Be-Longing:** Praying for Unity amidst Injustice. WPCU-2023-English-pamphlet-web.pdf (ctbi.org.uk)

### Bishops Leadership Team Meeting

*Oxford (England)*

## THURS 19 JAN St Theodore of Canterbury

### In vacancy

Pray for those sustaining the life of the church and its ministry in this part of Leicester during the vacancy. Pray for those who have the responsibility for deciding on its future ministry.

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**Be-Longing:** Praying for Unity amidst Injustice. WPCU-2023-English-pamphlet-web.pdf (ctbi.org.uk)

*Oyo (Nigeria)*

## FRI 20 JAN All Saints, Scraftoft & Netherhall

### Martin Court (C), Julie Harget (PA)

Pray for our exploration of a possible Minster Community – for wisdom and discernment in the process and a willingness to look for the positives.

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**Be-Longing:** Praying for Unity amidst Injustice. WPCU-2023-English-pamphlet-web.pdf (ctbi.org.uk)

*Pacong (Sudan)*

## SAT 21 JAN

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**Be-Longing:** Praying for Unity amidst Injustice. WPCU-2023-English-pamphlet-web.pdf (ctbi.org.uk)

*Panama (Central America)*



**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

**Be-Longing:** Praying for Unity amidst Injustice. WPCU-2023-English-pamphlet-web.pdf (ctbi.org.uk)

**Prayer for the Bishop's Deliverance Team**

The Bishop's Deliverance Team is directly responsible to the Bishop of Leicester and ministers to those troubled by experiences which may involve malign supernatural, preternatural or demonic forces or entities. Deliverance is a small but significant part of the Church's wider Healing Ministry requiring specialized care and sensitivity. Confidentiality is a high priority.

The Bishop's Advisor on Deliverance Ministry, Bishop Peter Fox, is the only member of the Team publicly identified as such and the Team may be contacted through him via the Bishop's Chaplain. Bishop Peter is retired but serves voluntarily as an Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese. Apart from his personal involvement in deliverance work, Bishop Peter is responsible for the supervision of other members of the team and acts as a liaison and point of contact for the wider community.

Twelve people make up the Diocesan Deliverance Team, each having particular expertise and experience for this work; experience of ministry in a variety of social and cultural contexts, mental health care experience and familiarity with occultist belief systems. The Church of England acknowledges and values the insights of psychiatry, psychology and medical science and our Team counts itself fortunate in having both a psychiatrist and a psychiatric nurse as members.

There is also a Member of the Magic Circle; it is important to remember that deception is Satan's favourite weapon and the possibility of fraud and trickery cannot be ignored in some of the situations the Team handles.

All members of the Team are people of mature Christian faith, all are people of prayer. Most, though not all, are ordained. Prayer support is an essential of its work.

The Bishop's Deliverance Team exists primarily as a resource for the local parish clergy, to support, encourage and inform those who have the ongoing pastoral responsibility. Whenever possible it prefers to work alongside the local parish priest and with that priest's permission. There is no substitute for the continuing pastoral care of a good local church.

**Please pray:**

- For the gift of discernment, clarity of mind, compassionate hearts and unwavering faith;
- For protection against the traps and snares of the Enemy;
- For those troubled by superstitious fear, Satanic interference in their lives and/or emotional and psychic disturbance.

**Contact us:** Through the Bishop's Chaplain in the Bishop's Office 0116 270 3390 or Bishops.Chaplain@LeicesterCofE.org or through your local vicar or parish priest.

*Confirmation at Church of the Martyrs*

*The United Church of North India*

**Church of England:** *Diocese of Birmingham, vacancy – bishop of Birmingham, Bishop Anne Hollinghurst*

**Church of Ireland:** *Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Bishop Paul Colton*

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:** *Diocese of Elsinore, Bishop Peter Birch*

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

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

**Be-Longing:** Praying for Unity amidst Injustice. WPCU-2023-English-pamphlet-web.pdf (ctbi.org.uk)

**World Leprosy Day** *The Leprosy Mission Prayer*

Almighty Father, the giver of life and health, look mercifully on those who suffer from leprosy. Stretch out your hand to touch and heal them as Jesus did during his earthly life. Grant wisdom and insight to those who are seeking the prevention and cure of the disease; give skill and sympathy to those who minister to the patients; reunite the separated with their families and friends; and inspire your people with the task set before The Leprosy Mission, that it may never lack either the staff or the means to carry on its healing work, in accordance with your will, and to the glory of your holy name. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

*Pankshin (Nigeria)*

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

**Be-Longing:** Praying for Unity amidst Injustice. WPCU-2023-English-pamphlet-web.pdf (ctbi.org.uk)

*Panrieng (South Sudan)*

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

**Be-Longing:** Praying for Unity amidst Injustice. WPCU-2023-English-pamphlet-web.pdf (ctbi.org.uk)

O GOD, who, through the preaching of the blessed Apostle Saint Paul, hast caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant, we beseech thee, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may shew forth our thankfulness unto thee for the same, by following the holy doctrine which he taught; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Panyana (South Sudan)*

**Irving Richards (C)**

Pray for the sustaining of ministry and mission, particularly through mutual support in the Evington-Highfields Mission Partnership, and for good relationships between the different faith communities represented in the parish.

*Paraguay (South America)*

Loving God, we come to you with heavy hearts, remembering the six million Jewish souls murdered during the Holocaust. In the horrors of that history, when so many groups were targeted because of their identity, and in genocides which followed, we recognise destructive prejudices that drive people apart. Forgive us when we give space to fear, negativity and hatred of others, simply because they are different from us. In the light of God, we see everyone as equally precious manifestations of the Divine, and can know the courage to face the darkness. Through our prayers and actions, help us to stand together with those who are suffering, so that light may banish all darkness, love will prevail over hate and good will triumph over evil. **Amen**

*Paraná (Brazil)*

*Pathein (Myanmar)*



## SUNDAY 29 JAN Candlemas / Presentation of Christ in the Temple



Candlemas

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage,

<sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day.<sup>38</sup> At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

### The Return to Nazareth

<sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.<sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

The great culmination of the revelation season of Epiphany centres on Jesus presented in the temple. The elation and wonder etched on Simeon & Anna's faces are a joy behold – sit and ponder and imagine what it would have been like for them after a lifetime of waiting and expectation. As we marvel again at the saving presence of Christ in our own lives, let us pray earnestly that more and more people will come to a heart full of revelation and gratitude of who Jesus is and all that he has done for us in our lives.

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by 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.**

*The United Church of Pakistan*

**Church in Wales:** Diocese of Bangor, Archbishop Andrew John, Bishop Mary Stallard

**Church of Ireland:** Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough, Archbishop Michael Jackson

Luke 2:22-40 (New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised)

### Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord<sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'),<sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.<sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.<sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon[c] came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,<sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.<sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed<sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

## MON 30 JAN Diocese of Kiteto

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.  
House of Bishops Meeting.

*Patna (North India)*

## TUES 31 JAN Stocking Farm and Beaumont Leys

**Rob Hinsley (C), Liz Smith (PA)**

Give thanks for the growth in confidence in our identity, our growing relationship with the 8 primary schools, the development of our Drop – In – Café at St Luke's, and the work of the Food Bank at Christ the King.

*São Paulo (Brazil)*

## WED 1 FEB St Aidan

**In vacancy; Alan Hawker (PTO -C), Linda Perks (CW)**

We continue to trust the Lord as we seek to emerge from a long interregnum, the Covid lockdowns and the subsequent loss of income. We continue to link with the community and especially through contacts with schools.

*Pelotos (Brazil)*

## THURS 2 FEB Wygggestons

**Tony Leighton (Master)**

We give thanks for our new facilities and the enjoyment of more social events. Pray for new residents as they settle in; for staff as they carry out their different roles; for wise decisions by the Governors (Trustees).

*Pennsylvania (Episcopal Church)*

## FRI 3 FEB

+Martyn Big Conversation weekend in Hope Hamilton

*Central Pennsylvania (Episcopal Church)*

## SAT 4 FEB World Cancer Day

<https://www.worldcancerday.org/about/2022-2024-world-cancer-day-campaign>

+Martyn Big Conversation weekend in Hope Hamilton

*North Western Pennsylvania (Episcopal Church)*





**+Martyn Big Conversation weekend in Hope Hamilton**

**LENT – a time for us all to repent!**

We human beings are having a devastating effect on this planet. We have polluted, exploited and misused God's creation. Our over-reliance on fossil fuels is the main cause of global warming and climate change. This has led to extreme weather events: floods for many and drought for many others; with threatened shortages of food; with the melting of the ice caps, and rising sea levels. And often it the poorer countries of the world – like many in Africa who are suffering the most from climate change and they are the people who have done least to cause it!

Gus Speth (an Environmental lawyer in USA) has written: 'I used to think the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, eco system collapse and climate change. I thought that with 30 years of good science we could address those problems. But I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy – and to deal with these we need a spiritual and cultural transformation – and we scientists don't know how to do that.'

(quoted in SLEEPERS WAKE – Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2022).

Why did COP27 in many ways fail? Mainly because of selfishness and greed shown by many of the wealthy countries, especially the oil rich countries like Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

The lifestyle Jesus calls us to, is also the lifestyle that will save the planet. It will mean living less selfishly and caring about those who are already being affected by climate change.

**A new lifestyle?**

- practical things like recycling, and cutting down on single-use plastic
- the way we spend our time, and our money
- reducing our carbon emissions, switching to a clean energy provider, using the car less, walking more, and not flying if we can avoid it
- cutting down on meat, growing more of our own food, not using pesticides
- reducing the impact we humans are having on the planet - walking lightly on the earth.

What difference will this make? Probably most of what we do will not make a massive difference. But in the end what matters is that we live in God's way, and do his will. That is the only way to find inner strength for living and loving. The only way to peace of mind, and live in hope. But hope is what you do!

*From the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth;  
From the laziness that is content with half-truth;  
From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth,  
O God of truth, deliver us. Amen.*

(an anonymous prayer quoted in SLEEPERS WAKE)

**A Five Week Course?** Brian Davis has copies of his CARING FOR CREATION available (£3.50 each) revbdavis@aol.com

**Revd Canon Brian Davis** (PTO)

*Anglican Church – Papua New Guinea*

**Church of England:** Diocese of Worcester, Bishop John Inge, Bishop Martin Gorick

**Church of Norway:** Diocese of Hamar, Bishop Ole Kristian Bonden

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

**World Orphan Week** <https://nationaltoday.com/world-orphan-week/>

**General Synod**

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. **Amen.**

*The Territory of the People (Canada)*



**TUES 7 FEB** General Synod

*Perth (Australia)*

**WED 8 FEB** Leicester, St Anne, St Paul & St Augustine

**Liz Wilson (C), Sharon Andrews (Pio C), Sharon Plant (C), Margaret Gillespie (R-PTO), Denis Walsh (R), Bill King (Local Minister), John Andrews (Lay Minister in Training)**

Bishop Saju visiting Northwest Leicester Deanery

We give thanks for our areas of growth, as places of welcome, in footcare, Eco Church, with children and families. We pray for our new community allotment project that it may be fruitful bringing people to God.

**General Synod**

*Peru (South America)*

**THURS 9 FEB** The Abbey, Leicester

**In Vacancy; Nigel Rooms (C), Margaret Gillespie (R-PTO)**

Pray for the deepening of our relationships with visitors, newcomers to worship and potential partners in our future mission in the City.

*Peshawar (Pakistan)*

**General Synod**

**FRI 10 FEB** Holy Spirit, Leicester (St Andrew)

**Johannes Arens (C), Herbert Fadriuela (Anglican Chaplain to the Filipino Community), Donald Sherriff (R)**

As we increasingly connect with the working population of our parish, we pray to connect people of very different backgrounds and cultures. We pray for a spirit of welcome and curiosity.

*Peterborough (England)*

**General Synod**

**SAT 11 FEB** Lay Vocations Day

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.**

**General Synod**

*Central Philippines (Philippines)*



## SUNDAY 12 FEB 2nd Sunday before Lent



### Racial Justice Sunday

**Numbers 12:1** *'Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite.'*

Cush was an ancient kingdom that today would include parts of North Africa. Reading on, God punished Miriam for her ethnic prejudice by giving her leprous skin, as white as snow, and sending her from the camp.

God exercised justice at the way Moses' wife, a black African woman, was treated due to her race, and from other parts of scripture we can clearly see God's commitment to justice and how others should uphold this. Leviticus 19:33-34 states that *'the foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born'*, and not mis-treated.

In the 2022 book **Healing the Divides**, Roach & Birdsall define "racial justice" as *'treating people with equal dignity and respect, protecting the rights of the vulnerable, and holding to account those who have caused harm on the basis of racism.'*

As we move into the New Testament, Ephesians 2:14-22 shows that the cross of Christ has broken down the dividing wall of hostility between ethnic groups. As we are reconciled with God, we are also reconciled to one another. But knowing this truth does not prevent us from ethnocentrism, prejudice, or the sin of racism. Even apostle Peter was continually reminded to overcome his biases against the Gentiles.

How do we live like this is the reality? Has this biblical knowledge become heart knowledge and a whole life embodiment? John Stott, in the 1979 publication **The Message of Ephesians**, states,

*'it is simply impossible... to go on proclaiming that Jesus by his cross has abolished the old divisions and created a single humanity of love, while at the same time we are contradicting our message by tolerating racial or social or other barriers within our church fellowship.'*

We must actively tackle racism and intentionally build relationships across difference, do our own reading and research, and allow the Holy Spirit to open our eyes and heart.

Without racial justice, the different groups that God has created cannot flourish, because those, particularly of global majority heritage, are still denied the basic human dignity of men and women made in God's image.

Without racial justice, we cannot achieve racial unity – being united as one shared humanity, one human race, under one Lord, in one faith – yet beautifully diverse in how we reflect the image of God.

### Prayer:

Loving God, we are sorry for judging others in our heart and actions. Open our eyes to see you in the faces of those you have created, lead us to listen to others who are different to ourselves, and help us to pursue justice in the way you do. **Amen.**

For more resources for use around Racial Justice Sunday, visit: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/liturgical-resources-racial-justice-sunday>

**Jessie Tang** – Intercultural Ministry Director

### General Synod

*Philippines (Episcopal Church)*

**Church of Ireland:** *United Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe, Bishop Michael Burrows*

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:** *Diocese of Roskilde, Bishop Ulla Thorbjörn*

**Hansen**

## MON 13 FEB Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

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

### Retreat Day for Resourcing Church Leaders

General Synod

*North Central Philippines (Philippines)*

## TUES 14 FEB Holy Spirit, Leicester (St Nicholas)

Karen Rooms (C)

As our congregation has grown in numbers, becoming more diverse in different ways, we pray that we continue to learn, how to be a radically welcoming and inclusive community, able to see and respond to the needs of the people around us.

General Synod

*Northern Philippines (Philippines)*

## WED 15 FEB Aylestone St Andrew with St James

**Rowena Bass (C), Barbara Paget (R), Brenda Spencer (R-PTO)**

We give thanks for our Wardens, PCC, Ministry Team, Vergers, Children's group leaders, cleaners, tea makers, flower arrangers, and all who enable our mission and ministry to flourish. We pray for more leaders/helpers with young people's activities and work with schools.

Bishops Leadership Team Meeting

*Southern Philippines (Philippines)*

## THURS 16 FEB St Christopher, Leicester

**Chris Collins (C), Charles Ndigirwa (C), Mission team members**

**Samworth Enterprise Academy**

Pray as we share the love of God and the gospel using Alpha course, Craft Cafe, Streets and door to door prayers, toddlers group, fish and chips, angels and Heroes (alternative to Halloween), we will see people coming into relationship with Jesus.

*Phulbani (Northern India)*

## FRI 17 FEB

*Pittsburgh (Episcopal Church)*

## SAT 18 FEB

*Polynesia (New Zealand and Polynesia)*

## SUNDAY 19 FEB Next before Lent

### Church Action on Poverty Sunday

We cannot but observe the effects of poverty around us in this country. You yourself or members of your family may be struggling this winter to keep essential things going. Just about managing has tipped into not managing for significant numbers of people. Others are finding themselves perhaps for the first time in serious financial trouble and do not know where to turn. Then look around the world and recognise that there are places of deep and intractable poverty, heightened increasingly by global events including climate change.

Whether personally struggling daily, or whether you have financial resilience which may carry you through these difficult times – all of us probably feel quite powerless in the maelstrom of global economics and political decision making. We may feel we have no agency but we do have voices, and many voices joined together can affect change.

We don't have to look far in the Bible to recognise how deep and dear this issue is to God. And we may feel we have no agency, but we do have voices. And many voices joined together can effect changes. Of course we have different giftings. Some, for example, see public protest as the way forward while, at the other end of the spectrum, others prefer quiet anonymous action. Some put their energies into publicly exposing injustices while others into alleviating desperate situations. And so on.

But collectively we are Church, proclaiming a Gospel of peace and justice. We cannot 'pass by on the other side'. Upholding the dignity and worth of every human being and enabling hidden voices to be heard – particularly those

who are at the sharp end of poverty – that is a calling we can fulfil. Despair and inertia should not be on our agendas. We could learn more to widen our understanding, collectively and individually call out inhumanity and injustice and join in where there is real energy and good stuff is happening. And we can, if nothing else, certainly pray.



#### Prayer pointers:

- NGOs, charities and think tanks publicly engaging with the issues;
- Governments in fulfilling the highest possible calling to serve their peoples;
- People who are particularly struggling at this time.

For more information, ideas, ways of joining in, materials and prayers around this issue do explore for starters the Church Action on Poverty website <https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/>

#### Revd Canon Alison Adams

Canon Pastor, Leicester Cathedral

*The Anglican Church in Rwanda*

**Church of England:** Diocese of Peterborough, Bishop Donald Allister, Bishop John Holbrook

**Church of Ireland:** Diocese of Meath and Kildare, Bishop Pat Storey

## MON 20 FEB Diocese of Wyoming

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

### World Day of Social Justice

World Day of Social Justice | United Nations

*Popondota (Papua New Guinea)*

## TUES 21 FEB St Hugh, Eyres Monsell and St James the Greater, Huncote

### Andrew Lee (C)

Merciful Father, thank you for our churches and their people. Help us to see you in everyone we meet and fill our lives with your praise. Please fill us with your Holy Spirit and help our churches grow more than 10% both spiritually and numerically.

*Portsmouth (England)*

## WED 22 FEB Ash Wednesday

Usually these days, when you stay in an Air B&B or hotel, you are usually emailed a questionnaire to fill in on how you rated your stay. Imagine our surprise after a recent trip when, without asking, we were emailed an evaluation on how we had been as customers – including how clean we left the accommodation! Fortunately, we got 5 out of 5!

As we begin Lent, let us once again open ourselves to God and allow him to search us and identify those areas of our lives that we would not get 5 out of 5 for cleanliness and ask him to fill us afresh by the spirit, wash us clean and seek new, healthy, holy habits to take up so we draw closer to him and better serve those around us.

*Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.**

The Bishop's Lent Appeal this year is supporting Home for Good, a local expression of the National Charity supporting foster children and carers. Please see page 45 (inside back cover) for more details.

*Pretoria (Southern Africa)*

## THURS 23 FEB Holy Apostles, Leicester

### Jenny Ridge, Tony Leighton (C), Ian Newcombe (R), Ashley Prince (PA)

Pray for us as we continue to reach out to our community with our toddler group and monthly café. Pray too for a breakthrough with our buildings issues.

*Puerto Rico (Episcopal Church)*

## FRI 24 FEB Holy Trinity & St John the Divine, Leicester

*Elaine Sutherland, Jitesh Patel, James Norris (C), Yemi Oladunjoye (C-PTO); Bridget Patel (Pio), Lois Young (Pio), Helen Feathers (Pio), Anne Scott (Pio), Frances Watts (Pio), AJ James (Pio), Nick Packer (Pio), Nik Watts (Pio)*

This term we ask you to pray for our St Peter's Community Belgrave as the new Lay Pioneer begins their role. For Compassion Ministry in these difficult times including our work with Asylum Seekers and Refugees, especially our Farsi seekers course.

*Pune (North India)*

## SAT 25 FEB Archbishop Justin Welby Prayer Day in Leicester

Check the Diocesan website for further details as they emerge.

*Pyay (Myanmar)*





**Fairtrade Fortnight**

With finances under pressure in the UK, now might feel like a bad time to think about buying Fairtrade. But, if anything, the need now is greater than ever. In the countries where much of our food comes from, the costs of living and production have risen sharply. The price of cooking gas in India has risen by nearly 30%, while in Peru, fertiliser has doubled in price.

These rises are especially painful in countries where about half of a household's income goes on food, as it does in Kenya and Ethiopia (by contrast, in the UK, the figure is 8%).

Many of these farmers are also facing the threat of climate change – as temperatures rise, certain crops will be impossible to grow. If they are paid fairly for their goods, they may be able to make the investments to become resilient against these changes. But if we get drawn into a race to the bottom, then even if they can survive this crisis, they may not get through the next.

This Fairtrade Fortnight, please pray for:

- UK businesses to do everything they can to make their supply chains fair and sustainable
- Protection for farmers and businesses in low- and middle-income countries against inflation and climate change

**Florence Gildea**

Social Policy Advisor to the Bishop of Leicester

**+Martyn** Lent Pilgrimage begins

*The Scottish Episcopal Church*

**Church of England:** Diocese of Canterbury - Archbishop Justin Welby, Bishop Rose Hudson Wilkin, Vacancy - Bishop of Maidstone, Bishop Norman Banks

**Church of Ireland:** Diocese of Down and Dromore, Bishop David McClay

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

*Qu'Appelle (Canada)*

**Andrew Quigley, Jane Sharp (C), Angela Jagger (R-PTO), Victoria Roe (PA), Sheila Roberts (R)**

Mission through music, especially the growth of the choir under our new(ish) Director of Music, and for those drawn to worship through the special services of recent months. Also, for our youth group and the needs of the parish.

*Quebec (Canada)*

**Sami Lindsey, David Lewis, Ali Simpson-Smith (C)**  
St John the Baptist CE Primary School

Thanksgiving for our ReGroup evenings that are providing refreshment and strengthening of community. As well as a new monthly Saturday morning Dads group. Prayers needed as we relaunch small groups as a vital area of ministry and discipleship.

*Queensland (Australia)*

**Ivan Bennett (C)**

Prayers for Ivan Bennett our minister and also his role in the Methodist circuit.

Giving thanks for our work with the Aylestone residents, the history group and our Sparks group who continue to look at new ways for outreach.

*Raiwind (Pakistan)*

**Adrian Jones (C), Aphro McCullough & Janet Gasper (C-PTO), Fiona Wingate (R), Cecilia Adjadje (ordinand)**

We give thanks for new outward looking initiatives – 'Oasis' and 'Warm Welcome'. Please pray for an openness to everything new that God wants to do through our churches and people.

*Rajasthan (North India)*

**+Martyn** Lent Pilgrimage

**Psalm 84:5**

*Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.*

*God of the guiding star, the bush that blazes* **Show us your way**

*God of the stormy seas, the bread that nourishes* **Teach us your truth**

*God of the still, small voice, the wind that blows where it chooses* **Fill us with life**

*God of the elements, of our inward and outward journeys*

**Set our feet on your road today. May God bless us with a safe journey**

**May the angels and saints travel with us. May we live this day in justice and joy. Amen.**

*Rayalaseema (South India)*

## SUNDAY 5 MARCH 2nd Sunday of Lent



### International Women's Day (IWD)

**"Equality** is giving each person the same pair of shoes. **Equity** is giving everyone a pair of shoes that fit". (author unknown)

**#EmbraceEquity** is the theme of International Women's Day (IWD) on 8th March 2023. IWD was started in 1911 to encourage all of us to work to forge women's equality. And while equality is the goal, equity is the means to get there.

The United Nations highlights all sorts of inequalities for women around the world such as the fact that:

- less than 20% of the world's landholders are women
- women make up more than 2/3rds of the world's 796 million illiterate people
- per week, women in Sierra Leone spend 7.3 hours collecting water, compared to 4.5 hours by men; in Malawi the figure is 9.1 hours compared to 1.1 hours.

(UNwomen.org 2012)

UK women have their own set of challenges:

- we currently rank 22nd on the global gender gap index, behind other European countries like France, Germany and Ireland
- women earn 17.9% less than men per hour on average (2019)
- men are almost twice as likely to be a manager, director or senior official than women

*"Just then (Jesus') disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman"* (John 4:27)

Jesus often broke societal and religious norms by talking to women and treating them equitably. Like Jesus, International Women's Day does not seek fair treatment of women at the expense of men, but recognises equity brings abundance of life for everybody.

Do visit <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/2023> Theme for ideas of how to get involved. Read our own diocesan report from 2020 on the ministry of women to see how we are doing: <https://www.leicester.anglican.org/info-for-leaders/womens-ministry/>

#### Please pray for:

- ways in which you can #EmbraceEquity for women in your situation
- institutions, including the church, learning to include all
- women treated unfairly in the UK and around the world

**Revd Alison Roche** (PTO)

**+Martyn** Lent Pilgrimage

*Church of the Province of South East Asia*

**Church of England:** *Diocese of Chelmsford, Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop Roger Morris, Bishop Lynne Cullens*

**Church of Sweden:**

*Diocese of Karlstad, Bishop Sören Dalevi*



## MON 6 MARCH Diocese of Trichy

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

*Recife (Brazil)*

## TUES 7 MARCH St Mary de Castro, Leicester

**In Vacancy; Alan Fletcher (CW)**

We give thanks and praise to God that by His grace the flames of the Spirit within our church is fanned by the work of our PCC, College of Priests and congregation. May His light continue to shine through us.

Bishops Leadership Team meeting over the next three days

*Rejaf (South Sudan)*

## WED 8 MARCH Blaby

**International Women's Day (IWD)** – see article on page 26

Bishops Leadership Team

*Remo (Nigeria)*

## THURS 9 MARCH St Peter, Braunstone Park

**Nigel Rostock (C)**

Thank God for Christ's presence as we have gathered, and that God will continue to build us up, guide and equip us to share the gospel with our contacts. For the relationships within the community that have been forged and strengthened.

Bishops Leadership Team

*Renk (South Sudan)*

## FRI 10 MARCH The Conventional District of Hamilton, Leicester

**Ed Down (C); Hamilton CE Primary School**

Give thanks for our new midweek group and leadership team. Pray for us to grow in being 'All ages, all cultures, living together in Jesus' and for our church school. Pray for wisdom as we take part in the Minster Community process.

*Rhode Island (Episcopal Church)*

## SAT 11 MARCH Lay Ministry Exploration Day

Lay ministries are growing and proliferating within the Church of England as more people respond to God's call in their lives and share their God-given gifts in a wide range of ministries. This evidence of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and creative human imagination in shaping new forms of service in ministry is something to celebrate joyfully while acknowledging that we hope for a future of increased confidence in and of lay ministries. Pray for all discerning God's will for their lives.

**+Martyn** Lent Pilgrimage

*Rift Valley (Tanzania)*

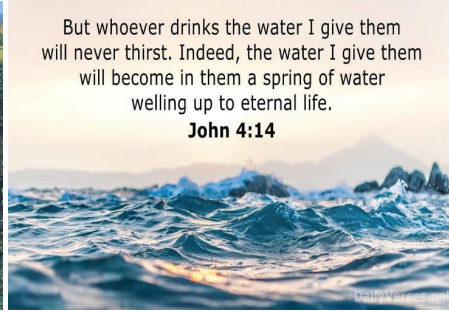


## SUNDAY 12 MARCH 3rd Sunday of Lent



But whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

**John 4:14**



John 4:5-42

### The Samaritan women at the well

As we read again this well-known passage, we are struck again of the outrageous grace of God, showing once again the new life that Jesus offers to anyone, no matter what their gender, geography, race or moral background.

Jesus is saying the water he is offering will amazingly quench your thirst so that you will never be thirsty again! More than that, it will become 'a spring bubbling up inside you, refreshing you with the new life which is coming into the world with Jesus and which is the life of the whole new world God is making' (verse 14).

### Prayer Pointers:

- Pray for all those seeking God's living water today.
- Pray for all encounters Jesus may lead us to, even ones which we find hard to imagine.
- Pray for the Spirit to continually equip us to share the good news of Christ and for many people to proclaim him as Lord and Saviour.

Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son went not up to joy  
but first he suffered pain,  
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:  
mercifully grant that we,  
walking in the way of the cross,  
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;  
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.**

**+Martyn** Lent Pilgrimage

*The Church of South India*

### Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia:

*Archbishop Jānis Vanags, Bishop Einārs Alpe,  
Bishop Hanss Martins Jensions,  
Bishop Rinalds Grants, Bishop Uldis Gailitis*

### Church of England: Diocese of Lichfield,

*Bishop Michael Ipgrave, Bishop Sarah Bullock,  
Bishop Matthew Parker, Bishop Clive Gregory*

### Church in Wales: Diocese of St David's,

*Bishop Joanna Penberthy*

## MON 13 MARCH

### Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

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

*Rio de Janeiro (Basil)*

## TUES 14 MARCH

Resourcing Churches and IWC Board Meetings

*Rio Grande (Episcopal Church)*

## WED 15 MARCH The Cathedral Parish of St Martins

**In vacancy: Karen Rooms (Acting Dean), Alison Adams, Emma Davies,  
Manuela Schmuki, Julia Bradshaw (C), Diana Belton (PA)**

Please pray for strength during our vacancy. Pray for the renewal of congregations as we grow more diverse. Please pray for the builders and consultants as the works for Leicester Cathedral Revealed continue and as preparation is made for re-opening.

*Riverina (Australia)*

## THURS 16 MARCH Deanery of Framland

**Area Dean: John Barr, Lay Chair: Mike Alexander**

Please join us in giving thanks for the leadership of our lay and ordained ministers and local church officers.

Please pray for renewed vision and Easter hope, as we confront the challenges facing our many rural parishes, and discern Kingdom opportunities.

*Rochester (England)*

## FRI 17 MARCH The East Vale of Belvoir Parishes of Barkingstone-le-Vale, Bottesford, Muston, Plungar & Redmile

**In vacancy, Judith Wells (R), John Bartlett (R), Lisa Smith (R)**

**Bottesford & Redmile CE Primary Schools**

We pray for God's guidance as we look to appoint a Growing Faith Minister to work alongside our schools, young people and families, building on the foundations already laid by our Ministry Team.

*Rochester (Episcopal Church)*

## SAT 18 MARCH

Resourcing Church Community of Practice

**+Martyn** Lent Pilgrimage

*Rockhampton (Australia)*

**SUNDAY 19 MARCH** 4th Sunday of Lent Mothering Sunday

**Luke 2:33-35**

<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.  
<sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you; you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.

Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.

Your warmth gives life to the dead, your touch makes sinners righteous.

Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us; in your love and tenderness remake us.

In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness, for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

Anselm (1109)



- For us all as we journey with Christ on the sacrificial road of discipleship

**+Martyn Lent Pilgrimage**

*The Anglican Church of Southern Africa*

**Church of Sweden:**

*Diocese of Lund, Bishop Johan Tyrberg*

**Church of Ireland:**

*Diocese of Cashel, Ossory and Ferns,  
Bishop Adrian Wilkinson*

**Church of England:**

*Diocese of Ely,  
Bishop Stephen Conway,  
Bishop Dagmar Winter*

**For prayer and reflection as we journey through Lent:**

- Thank God for the gift of Jesus who knows the thoughts of each of our hearts
- Rejoice with those for whom today, Mothering Sunday, is a day of great delight
- Grieve with those for whom today brings heighten pain, isolation, estrangement and those who feel as if their hearts have been pierced also
- Pray for those all over the world turning to faith in Christ and especially in countries where the message of Christ is opposed

**MON 20 MARCH** Diocese of Wyoming

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

*Rokon (South Sudan)*

**TUES 21 MARCH**

**International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination | United Nations  
Please refer back to Page 20,

**Bishops Council** – meeting over the next two days

*Rorya (Tanzania)*

**WED 22 MARCH** The Parishes of Ab Kettleby, Asfordby, Grimston, Holwell, Saxelby with Shoby, Six Hills & Wartnaby

**Mark Carroll (C), Lorna Wright (R), Roger Tucker (R), Paul Ainge (R)**

We pray for our churches, PCCs, and their parishioners, and for those who minister to them. We give thanks that the works to restore Holwell church and make it a gift to the village and church are going well.

*Ruaha (Tanzania)*

**THURS 23 MARCH**

**College of Bishops Meeting**

*Ziwa Rukwa (Tanzania)*

**FRI 24 MARCH** The West Vale of Belvoir Parishes of Harby, Hose, Long Clawson, Nether Broughton, Old Dalby and Stathern

**Jamie Mackay (C and Framland Deanery Mission and Outreach Enabler), Simon Shouler (C), Paul Towns (C), Paul Ainge (R),**

**Harby, Hose, Long Clawson, Old Dalby CE Primary Schools**

Thanksgiving for ministry team including our about to be licenced lay ministers Jo & Mel. To carry Jesus' message to our school children to "Come unto me" amid all the world's distractions. Our churches to love its villagers, & discern God's will amid all the Minster Community discussions.

*Rumbek (South Sudan)*

**SAT 25 MARCH** The Annunciation

**+Martyn Lent Pilgrimage**

*Rumonge (Burundi)*



## SUNDAY 26 MARCH 5th Sunday of Lent



### John 11: 1-45

*3The Death of Lazarus; Jesus the Resurrection and the Life, Jesus Weeps*

*Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life;  
The Plot to Kill Jesus.*

As Passiontide begins, the full emotion, drama, pain, suffering and reality of the Gospel story is portrayed before our eyes in today's reading from John.

The compassion Jesus shows in weeping with Lazarus's sisters touches all our hearts and lives, knowing his heart of love is turned towards us in the same way. As the story unfolds, Jesus demonstrates a foretaste of his own soon-to-come death and resurrection, in raising Lazarus from death to life.

That same power is still at work in the world today. As we seek his presence among us, may we see our own signs and wonders as situations are transformed from death to life.

### Prayer Pointers:

- Give thanks for the compassionate heart of Jesus.
- Pray for those we know seeking resurrection in their own lives.
- For all believers to continue to walk the way of the cross with Jesus this Lent.

*Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of your Son  
Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the  
cross we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
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.*

### +Martyn Lent Pilgrimage

*The Anglican Church of South America*

### Church of Ireland:

*Diocese of Armagh,*

*Archbishop John McDowell*

### Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:

*Diocese of Funen, Bishop Tine Lindhardt*

## MON 27 MARCH Diocese of Kiteto

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

Rupert's Land (Canada)

## TUES 28 MARCH Deanery of Sparkenhoe West

Pray for all Christians as they witness and serve God in the Deanery of Sparkenhoe West.

*Rutana (Burundi)*

## WED 29 MARCH The South Croxton Benefice and the Burrough Hill Benefice

*Neil Stothers (C & Framland Deanery Secondary Schools Work Enabler), Jane Walker (C-PTO)*

We pray for generosity in our gifts to God's Churches. Let us remember our calling to unite all our benefice Churches and congregations as we pray for God's abundant mercy and peace flowing from harmony, truth and love. **Amen.**

*Ruvuma (Tanzania)*

## THURS 30 MARCH

*Ruwenzori (Uganda)*

## FRI 31 MARCH The High and South Framland Benefices

*David Cowie (C), Sue Dawson (R), Jean Lee (R)*

*Croxton Kerrial CE Primary School, Wymondham CE Primary School*

Please pray: for our small ministry team, spread so thinly across so many rural parishes; for Barbara Guntrip, who has begun training for licensed ministry; and for our primary schools, that our ministry with them will continue to flourish.

*East Ruwenzori (Uganda)*

## SAT 1 APRIL

**+Martyn** Lent Pilgrimage

*South Ruwenzori (Uganda)*

**Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem**

<sup>21</sup>When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>22</sup>saying to them, 'Go into



the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.<sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

<sup>5</sup> 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'

<sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup>they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

<sup>9</sup>The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

<sup>10</sup>When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?'<sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'

The Roman governors made it a policy to be in Jerusalem ahead of the big Jewish celebrations. The army would process in with great pomp, showing off the political might of Rome to intimidate the locals. It was meant to be both a reminder of who was in charge as well as a warning to any who might get ideas of freedom from their celebration of Passover. Jesus' own entry into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey couldn't have been more different. His entry was a proclamation of the kingdom of God, a very visible show of the gentle and peaceful ways of God, totally at odds to the ways of Rome.

**+Martyn Lent Pilgrimage**

*Episcopal Church of South Sudan*

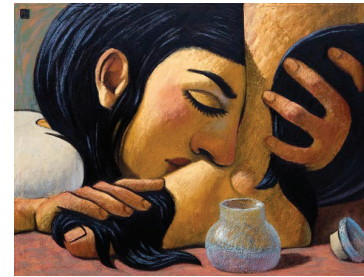
**Church of Sweden:**

*Diocese of Uppsala, Archbishop Martin Modéus,  
Bishop Karin Johannesson*

**Church in Wales:**

*Diocese of Llandaff, Bishop June Osborne*

Picture credit: L'Entrée du Christ à Jérusalem | Hippolyte Flandrin



**Diocese of Trichy**

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

**Holy Week begins**

When Jesus' feet are anointed by his friend, Mary of Bethany, the fragrance of the perfume filled the house, likely clinging to Jesus' feet through the coming week. This beautiful and tender reading speaks of a deep love and affection between Jesus and Mary. Her extravagance challenges us to consider what in our lives is an offering of the love we have for Jesus, and the ways in which this love fills the world around us, clinging to our lives as a witness of our love.

*Sabah (South East Asia)*

Jesus teaches his disciples that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Jesus' words invite us to follow him in his Way of love, leading us through death and beyond into life. It is as we follow Jesus that we discover his truth – that Resurrection is the pattern of all things, a pattern God has woven into the very fabric of his creation. This pattern of Resurrection teaches us that only when we give away everything will we find ourselves to be truly alive.



*Sabongidda-Ora (Nigeria)*



The significance of Jesus offering Judas bread dipped in wine is often missed. And yet Judas would not have overlooked what was a norm in his culture: that to offer someone bread dipped in wine is an offering of the deepest affection and friendship. This is all the more extraordinary because Jesus offered his friendship even though he knew Judas was going to betray him. This simple act should turn our world upside down, as Jesus shows the unimaginable depths of God's love, even to those who will go on to betray his love. We find in Jesus the unimaginable: that God willingly stretches out his hands in friendship to all, loving enemies and inviting them even in the very moment of betrayal to become friends.

*Saldanha Bay (Southern Africa)*

Picture credit: Anointing His Feet | Wayne Forte

Picture credit: The Parable of the Sower | Jesus Marja

Picture credit: The Last Supper | Ugolino da Siena [Detail]



## THURS 6 APRIL MAUNDY THURSDAY | John 13.1-17, 31b-35



It is a stunning moment when Jesus stoops to wash his disciples' feet; Jesus, the one through whom everything has been created, takes his place as Lord and master by stooping to serve his creation and wash feet. This is not what many would expect. In this world might is right, and strength is about anything other than the most gentle and humble of acts. And yet here, in this moment, Jesus reveals the fullness of God's strength contained in the simplest act of gentleness and humility. Jesus shows his lordship over all creation by being willing to serve.

Salisbury (England)

Picture credit: Washing | Sieger Köder

## FRI 7 APRIL GOOD FRIDAY | John 18.1-19.42

It is an act of enormous courage for Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus to claim the body of Jesus. After all, Nicodemus had first come to Jesus secretly at night because he was afraid anyone might see him in the company of Jesus. And yet it is in this moment, even though it seems that Jesus has finally been silenced by death and they are too late, that Joseph and Nicodemus choose to come forward to claim Jesus' body. His death has unlocked within them a willingness to name their love for Jesus, and their love for Jesus is greater than their fear of anyone or anything else. And so they come forward to take Jesus' body, showing their love for their Lord and friend in his death, in a way they were too afraid to show in his life.



El Salvador (Central America)

Picture credit: Dead Christ with Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus | Pietro di Cristoforo Yonnucchi

## SAT 8 APRIL HOLY SATURDAY | John 19.38-42

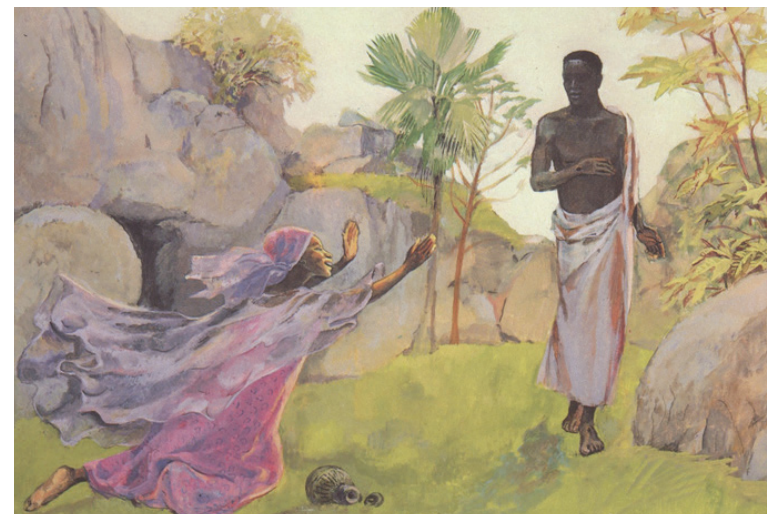


Jesus' body lies still, broken and lifeless in a cold stone tomb. The day must have stretched out like an eternity for Jesus disciples, broken as they betrayed and abandoned their friend to his cruel death. And yet even as his body lies in the tomb, Jesus remains the Author of Life. Cyril of Alexandria, one of the Church Fathers, imagines that this is the moment when Jesus himself descended to the place of the dead; and as the gatekeepers of hell saw Jesus coming, they fled, and all the chains that had been holding people captive to the powers of death and hell burst, as Jesus himself shouted to those imprisoned in the darkness of death, 'Come out!' Death was never going to be able to hold Jesus back. Instead of defeating Jesus, death itself was defeated, and Jesus, the source of all life, frees all those held captive in the darkness of death.

Sambulpur (North India)

Picture credit: Christ in Limbo | Benvenuto di Giovanni

## SUNDAY 9 APRIL EASTER DAY | Matthew 28.1-10



Picture credit: Christ Appears to Mary | Jesus Maja

### The Resurrection of Jesus Easter Sunday! He has risen!

<sup>28</sup>After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>29</sup>And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>30</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>31</sup>For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>32</sup>But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>33</sup>He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he[a] lay. <sup>34</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead,[b] and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' <sup>35</sup>So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>36</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. <sup>37</sup>Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary arrived at Jesus' tomb when the sun had barely risen. They had arrived

to keep watch, a custom some Jews kept for their loved ones, an altogether different reason to be there from the guards who have been stationed at the tomb. But together the women and the guards were witnesses to the sudden earthquake and arrival of an angel, who rolled the stone away, leaving the tomb open. While the guards were overwhelmed with fear and fall about like dead bodies, the women's fear was gradually transformed. It was as they set off to see the others that their hearts began to give way to joy. Which is why there was nothing left for them when they finally met the Risen Lord but to respond with love, and to take hold of Jesus' wounded feet.

Episcopal Church of Sudan

#### Church of England:

Diocese of Derby, Bishop Libby Lane,  
Bishop Malcolm Macnaughton

#### Church of Ireland:

Diocese of Clogher, Bishop Ian Ellis

#### Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:

Diocese of Aalborg,  
Bishop Thomas Reinholdt Rasmussen

**MON 10 APRIL** MONDAY OF EASTER WEEK | Matthew 28.8-15



**Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro**

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

Where Mary Magdalene and the other Mary responded with love to the news that the tomb was empty, the religious leaders responded with fear, attempting to cover up the very thing that should've been a cause for their greatest joy. After all, they heard the truth of what happened from the very guards who had been overwhelmed with fear by what they saw at Jesus' tomb. These men had been eyewitness that the tomb was empty; they knew what had happened. And still the religious leaders did what they could to suppress the truth. They had bought Judas off; and now they bought the guards off, too.

*Santiago (Chile)*

Resurrection | Piero della Francesca

**TUES 11 APRIL** TUESDAY OF EASTER WEEK | John 20.11-18

Mary Magdalene couldn't see the man coming toward her through her tears and grief, and she assumed he must have been the gardener. While it wasn't who she thought it was, in a wonderful sense Mary was actually right because this is the Gardener. This is the Gardener who first tended Eden at the dawn of creation. And once more it is the first day of the week; and just like there was a day at the beginning of time when this Gardener spoke his Word and there was light and life, now here is a day at the beginning of this re-creation, when the Gardener speaks his Word, and there is light and life once more. All it takes is for the Gardener to call out her name, 'Mary!' and she finds herself truly and fully alive.

*Santiago (Philippines)*



Picture credit: Alive | Sieger Köder

**WED 12 APRIL** WEDNESDAY OF EASTER WEEK | Luke 24.13-35



On the first day of the week, Jesus was walking with Cleopas and an unnamed disciple, listening to them discussing his Resurrection as they head along towards Emmaus. Even though he spent time walking and talking with them, opening their hearts to the Scriptures, they didn't recognise Jesus. It's only when Jesus broke the bread that Cleopas and the unnamed disciple finally recognised him—and they rushed back to Jerusalem, even in the darkness, to tell the others. It's possible to recognise ourselves in this story, for the person of the unnamed disciple stands for each one of us. It is up to us to find with Cleopas that our hearts burn with joy as we encounter Jesus again and again, as the Scriptures are opened, as the Bread is broken, and perhaps unexpectedly as we journey through life, accompanied by strangers who become friends in the joy of Easter.

*Sapele (Nigeria)*

Picture credit: The Road to Emmaus | He Qi

**THURS 13 APRIL** THURSDAY OF EASTER WEEK | Luke 24.35-48



The first words Jesus said to the eleven when he saw them was, 'Peace be with you.' But they were feeling anything but peace. Startled and terrified, they had locked themselves away in their fear. Even though they had heard the story of the empty tomb, and in some cases even though some of them had run to the tomb and seen it was empty for themselves, they were still feeling anything but peace. The death of Jesus and the ways in which they had abandoned Jesus to his fate had been weighing on their hearts. But Jesus did not demand anything from his disciples; he offered them only the peace he promised before they abandoned him, a peace the world cannot possibly give. And this peace came to them, as it comes to each of us, with absolute freedom from the very victim of their fear, making no demands, simply waiting to be accepted as gift.

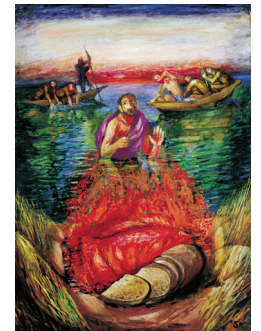
*Saskatchewan (Canada)*

Picture credit: Incredulità di San Tommaso | Caravaggio

**FRI 14 APRIL** FRIDAY OF EASTER WEEK | John 21.1-14

The disciples didn't recognise Jesus at first, as he called to them from the shore; but only one person could have told them where to find a haul of fish so large it would fill their nets without bursting them. And it wasn't just a large shoal of fish; the number of fish tells us it was a shoal of every kind of fish, for it was thought at the time that the seas were made up of one hundred and fifty-three species of fish. What better way to tell fishermen they were going to become fishers of all the peoples in the world than to give them a shoal of every type of fish? And just as Jesus invited the disciples to haul the fish to the shore for breakfast, so the disciples were going to lead people from every nation of the world to take their place in the great feast of God's kingdom.

*Saskatoon (Canada)*



Picture credit: Plenitude | Sieger Köder

**SAT 15 APRIL** SATURDAY OF EASTER WEEK | Mark 16.9-15

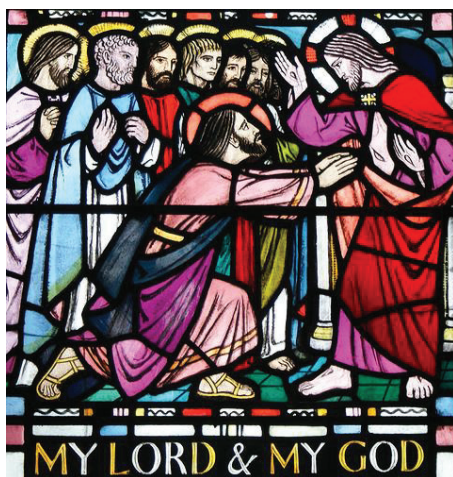


The Easter story didn't just happen. It is a story that is still happening, for we are an Easter people and at all times and in all places God's pattern of Resurrection is unfolding around us and, if we will let it, within us. Like Mary Magdalene, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, like the eleven and their companions in the locked room and on the seashore, our encounter with the Risen Lord will transform us into an Easter people, called to live out the Good News of God's love in the world around us. It started with that first small group of people, it has transformed into something bigger, and it will continue to transform the world about us. But it's our turn, for our Risen Lord invites us to share our Easter faith: 'Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News to the whole creation.'

*Sebei (Uganda)*

Picture credit: The Risen Lord | He Qi





**John 20: 19-31**  
Jesus Appears to the Disciples

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

**Jesus and Thomas**

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed

because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

**The Purpose of This Book**

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

In our own faith journey, whether we call him 'doubting Thomas' or 'enquiring Thomas', whether we came to faith instantly or over a long period of time, whether we always need many things proven or accept things very quickly without explanation, we can I am sure all identify with different parts of this story from a variety of seasons in our lives. A much-read passage by us all I'm sure, re-read the passage slowly a couple of times and ask God by his spirit to reveal a new angle about it to you – like Thomas, and however we get there, may we also say once again 'My Lord and my God'.

**Prayer Pointers:**

- Pray for those who are seeking an encounter with the living God
- Give thanks for the written word of God and for those who diligently translate the bible into many different languages
- Pray for comfort and understanding to those experiencing many doubts
- Give thanks for those who believe even if they have not seen

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father. **Amen.**

*Anglican Church of Tanzania*

**Church of England:**

*Diocese of Blackburn, Bishop Julian Henderson,  
Bishop Jill Duff, Bishop Philip North*

**Scottish Episcopal Church:**

*Diocese of Brechin, Bishop Andrew Swift*

**The Lutheran Church in Great Britain:**

*Bishop Tor Berger Jørgensen*

**Diocese of Wyoming**

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

Pray for our **Diocesan Priorities: new communities** – reimagining church for those who don't do church.

*Sekondi (West Africa)*

Pray for our **Diocesan Priorities: intercultural communities** – reimagining church as a place where people of different cultures worship, celebrate and share together.

*Seoul (Korea)*

Pray for our **Diocesan Priorities: intergenerational churches** – reimagining church as a place where people of different ages worship, celebrate and share together.

**Bishops Leadership Team Meeting**

*Seychelles (Indian Ocean)*

Pray for our **Diocesan Priorities: eco-communities** – reimagining church as a place where creation is celebrated and nurtured.

*Sheffield (England)*

Pray for our **Diocesan Priorities: reconciling communities** – reimagining church as a place where people with different views live well together.

*Shinyanga (Tanzania)*

**Earth Day**

<https://www.earthday.org/>

*Upper Shire (Central Africa)*



## SUNDAY 23 APRIL 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER



### George, Martyr, Patron of England

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

### Peter Addresses the Crowd

<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

<sup>36</sup> Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

### The First Converts

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' <sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' <sup>40</sup> And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' <sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

As we reflect on the latest Census (published a few days before going to print in December 2022), let's pray earnestly for more and more people to re-discover faith in Jesus Christ.

### Prayer pointers:

- Give thanks for the first converts to faith in Christ and for leading the way for us all.
- Pray for many to repent, believe and be baptised in our midst.
- Continue to give thanks for the resurrected Jesus and the gift of his spirit.

*Almighty Father,  
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples  
with the sight of the risen Lord:  
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,  
that we may be strengthened and sustained by  
his risen life  
and serve you continually in righteousness  
and truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

*The Church of Uganda*

**Church of Sweden:**  
*Diocese of Gothenburg,  
Bishop Susanne Rappmann*

**Scottish Episcopal Church:**  
*Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway,  
Bishop Kevin Pearson*

## MON 24 APRIL

### Diocese of Kiteto

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

Please pray for all staff who work and minister at St Martin's House.

*Shyira (Rwanda)*

## TUES 25 APRIL

Please pray for all staff who work and minister at Launde Abbey

*Shyogwe (Rwanda)*

## WED 26 APRIL

Please pray for all staff who work and minister at the St Philip's Centre.

*Sialkot (Pakistan)*

## THURS 27 APRIL

Please pray for all staff who work and minister at Bishop's Lodge.

*Singapore (South East Asia)*

## FRI 28 APRIL

Please pray for all staff who work and minister within the wider Diocese.

*Sittwe (Myanmar)*

## SAT 29 APRIL

*Sodor & Man (England)*

### A PRAYER FOR SHAPED BY GOD TOGETHER

Eternal God,  
You call your people to fullness of life in you  
and promise to be with us  
in all the changing scenes of life:  
may we be shaped by you in our lives  
and communities to refresh the Church,  
transform the world, and build the kingdom,  
as with thanksgiving for the past,  
we step out in hope and trust into your future;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.





**Acts 2: 42-47**

*42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

**Life among the Believers**

*43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*

As Easter people, guided by God's spirit, may we be inspired and not over-awed at the life of the early church. Pray for God to give us glad and generous hearts, sharing all that we have been blessed with and seeking his presence in our midst. May we see day by day many added to our number!

**Prayer pointers:**

- Continue to give thanks for the resurrected Jesus and the gift of his spirit
- Give thanks for the gift of fellowship with other believers
- Pray for all displaced people the world over seeking refuge and a sense of belonging
- Seek the Lord earnestly and pray that we may see more signs and wonders in our midst

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**



*The Episcopal Church*

**Church of England:**

*Diocese of Southwark, Bishop Christopher Chessun, vacancy – bishop of Kingston, Bishop Rosemarie Mallet, Bishop Karwei Dorgu*

**Church of Norway:** *Diocese of Björgvin, Bishop Halvor Nordhaug*



**Bishop's Lent Charity 2023 – Home for Good**

Every 15 minutes in the UK, a child will come into care. Many will have suffered neglect or abuse; all will have experienced trauma and loss. We know that for children in care, it's crucial to find the right home at the right time – whether that's a short-term or long-term foster family, an adoptive home or with a supported lodgings host.

**Home for Good** is a UK charity with a vision to find a home for every child who needs one. We believe the Church is ideally placed to ensure that every child and young person has the loving home they need. Each one of us has a part we can play. For some, that might be opening our homes to a child or young person through fostering, adoption or supported lodgings. For others, it might be providing practical support. Church families have a huge part to play in ensuring their spaces are safe and welcoming for children who have had a tricky start in life.

In Leicestershire, a team of about 8 volunteers or champions work to respond to the needs of children within our area. We run events such as our annual Christmas party for

foster and adoptive families, projects such as our care packages for newly approved foster carers and regular awareness raising campaigns. In 2022 we ran a Lego club and storytelling holiday club for care experienced children, and hosted a theatre performance that powerfully portrayed the stories of young people. It is a privilege to speak to churches about care for the vulnerable, to walk alongside those making their first enquiries into fostering and adoption and to see children make huge strides in their recovery from childhood trauma.

**You can find out more about Home for Good at [www.homeforgood.org.uk](http://www.homeforgood.org.uk) or email the Leicester team: [leicester@homeforgood.org.uk](mailto:leicester@homeforgood.org.uk).**



Diocese of  
Leicester