

PRAYER DIARY

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2024



Diocese of
Leicester

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Launde Abbey, East Norton
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SEPTEMBER

2 - 5 **GOD'S CREATION, NARNIA AND MIDDLE-EARTH**
led by Andy Swinford

8 **CLASSICAL CONCERT AND CREAM TEA: TESSERAE**
(4-part Vocal Group)
A Launde Abbey Fundraising Event

21 - 22 **THRIVING IN RETIREMENT**
led by Florence and Clive Morton

23 - 26 **LABYRINTH RETREAT**
led by Jim Bailey

26 **RURAL MISSION HUB at Launde Abbey**

OCTOBER

7 **QUIET DAY**

20 **CLASSICAL CONCERT & CREAM TEA**
Lisa Nelsen (Flute) & Julian Metzger (Cello)
A Launde Abbey Fundraising Event

26 **SATURDAY QUIET DAY**

28 - 1 Nov **INTO THE SILENT LAND**
Five Day Meditation Retreat,
led by Chris Whittington

NOVEMBER

11 - 15 **SPIRITUAL MENTORS IN HOLY SCRIPTURE: A John Bell Retreat**,
led by John Bell

15 - 17 **JULIAN OF NORWICH Revelations of Divine Love**, led by Gail & Ian Adams

24 **CLASSICAL CONCERT & CREAM TEA**
Charlotte Rowan (Violin) & Charlotte Stevenson (Piano)
A Launde Abbey Fundraising Event

29 - 1 Dec **ADVENT RETREAT: Waiting Hopefully**
led by Revd Rhona Knight

DECEMBER

2 **QUIET DAY**

2 - 5 **ROOTED AND GROUNDED: Going Deeper into Spiritual Practice**
led by Launde Abbey and Renovaré

9 - 13 **ICON PAINTING RETREAT**
led by Peter Murphy

JANUARY 2025

10 - 12 **EPIPHANY RETREAT**
led by Revd John Rackley

20 - 24 **TEXTILES RETREAT**
led by Revd Claire Goode


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FOREWORD FROM THE BISHOP OF LEICESTER



"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." **1 Corinthians 3:7**

These well-known words remind us that ministry can be likened to gardening. We work hard to create the conditions for growth, but only God gives the growth. And good gardening is about partnership – soil, water, sunshine, and more are all needed. We can influence each of these to some degree but as any gardener knows, we cannot control them.

Engaging in prayer is a way of reminding ourselves that we are only one part of an ecosystem. We do our part, but we are dependent on God for growth. And this prayer diary is a reminder of the various other partners in our ministry. None of us serves alone, and each parish is part of a diocese, a national church, and a global church.



The changing seasons also remind us that growth is not a straight-line process. There are sudden spurts of growth and also times when the leaves drop, and plants prepare themselves for frost and snow. The work of the gardener changes with the seasons - and hopefully involves some rest periods! There is real wisdom in marking the seasons in ministry as well.

I hope this prayer diary will inspire you as you play your part in God's garden.

+ *Marty Leicester*

Bishop of Leicester





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

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 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 Paul Betts, the Interim 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!





"For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed."
Romans 8:19.

Creationtide is a month where Christians from around the world come together to celebrate the wonderful creation which we are part of, and look to care for our common home. This year, we are called to hope and act with creation – to be ones who bring hope in the midst of the darkness of the climate and biodiversity crisis.

Romans 8:22 encourages us to recognise the situation we are in and to cry out in lament for the state of the world: the effects of climate change are becoming more obvious (wildfires, heatwaves, drought, hurricanes, intense storms, flooding, warming oceans, habitat destruction) and we cry out in repentance for the situations we, as humanity, have caused.

We are then pointed towards hope: *"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness"* (Archbishop Desmond Tutu). We are waiting to see creation, with us included, set free to be a new creation – to be renewed, restored and redeemed. This is the guarantee we have in Jesus and so we wait in eager expectation for this to happen.

But, hope is not passive: hope leads to action and we partner with God within this time of waiting. Creation is waiting for the children of

God to be revealed: the Church is the hope of creation to bring flourishing life where there has been damage and to safeguard all that has been made.

This Creationtide:

- Lament for the state of creation;
- Pray in hope for specific places where you know there is suffering because of climate change;
- Pray in hope for wise decisions to be made by governments and businesses;
- Pray in hope for an end to the use of fossil fuels;
- Turn your hope into action with your church's eco church journey, your local community or place of work and with your own lifestyle.

Anne Scott

Lay Associate Minister: St Peter's Belgrave Community Church and Convenor of the OWL Network Eco Communities Archives – The Hub Diocese of Leicester (anglican.org).

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:
Diocese of Turku, Archbishop Tapio Luoma,
Bishop Mari Leppänen

Church of England:
Diocese of York, Archbishop Stephen Cottrell,
Bishop Paul Ferguson, Bishop John Thomson,
Bishop Eleanor Sanderson, Bishop Stephen Race

Anglican Church of Mozambique and Angola

MON 2 SEPT Diocese of Kiteto

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

Martyrs of Papua New Guinea, 1901, 1942

EPC: Benin, Ivory Coast, Togo

Ikedura (Nigeria)

TUES 3 SEPT

Woodhouse & Woodhouse Eaves

Lisa Temperley-Barnes (C), Claire Zanker (R) Di Rhydings (AM)

St Paul's CE Primary School, Woodhouse Eaves

Prayers for us are that we give thanks to God that He is adding to our number through our Holy Eucharist services and that we continue to make Christ present in the hearts of others in service to God and in mission and outreach serving our communities.

Gregory the Great, bishop, teacher of the faith, 604.

Ikwerre (Nigeria)

WED 4 SEPT

Thorpe Acre with Dishley

Tim Day (C)

Pray for the phase 2 process of Minster Communities for Minster Community C in Area 2, that we will discern God's leading in how we move forward and work together to see the Parishes continue to flourish and grow.

Birinus, bishop, 650.

Ikwo (Nigeria)

THURS 5 SEPT

Deanery of North West Leicestershire

Area Dean: Gill Pinnington. Lay Chair: Noreen Mewies.

Prayer for the NWL Deanery. Pray for all those in our churches, both clergy and lay who are tired, for encouragement in their daily walk with Jesus.

Pray for those churches who do not have an incumbent. Prayer for Minster Community and all it might mean for the Deanery.

Ikwuano (Nigeria)

FRI 6 SEPT

PTO Clergy North West Leicestershire:

David Adams, Richard Andrews, Lesley Birtwistle, Chris Boulton, Stephen Brook, Brenda Campbell, Barry Dryden, Paul Harris, Julie Ann Heath, Trevor Parkerson, Terri Skinner, Edwina Wallace and Geoffrey Willett.

Alan Gardiner, missionary, founder of the South American Mission Society, 1851.

Ilaje (Nigeria)

SAT 7 SEPT

Ile-Oluji (Nigeria)

SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER



Education Sunday

Ascension of King Charles III, 2022

Education Sunday

At the time of writing, we are in the run up to a general election. By the time you read this, we will long know the outcome. And yet, whatever the political climate, the leaders and staff in our Church and Community schools, will have begun the new academic year with fresh hope and excitement.

There are many challenges facing our schools. There is a crisis in provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Children are now waiting many years to be assessed if it is suspected that they may be autistic or have ADHD. The funding pressures for schools are the most significant they have been in decades. More children start school without being toilet-trained and with very poor communication skills. Children's mental health is precarious with many suffering from extreme anxiety that in some cases, means that they can no longer attend school. Teaching is not the attractive career it once was and now teacher supply is in a critical state.

And yet, our headteachers, teachers and teaching assistants still hold on to hope. Day by day, they help children to love life and learning. Governors, too, play their part.

The work of school staff and governors could be described as the art of 'clypping'. This word comes from the Anglo-Saxon 'clyppan' which can mean 'embrace'. In some parts of the country, church communities 'clyp' their church on special days. They all gather round the church building, holding hands and pray for the church as they embrace it. Oftentimes, they all then turn around and pray for the community.

Let's pray a 'clypping' prayer for the schools in our communities; embracing them with our care and concern; remembering the challenges they face and praising God for the hope and the joy that may be found there.

Carolyn Lewis

Director of Education

Service Celebrating 30th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women Priests – Leicester Cathedral at 3.30pm

Church of England:

Diocese of Salisbury, Bishop Stephen Lake,
Bishop Andrew Rumsey, Bishop Karen Gorham

Church in Wales:

Diocese of St Asaph, Bishop Gregory Cameron

Myanmar (Burma)

MON 9 SEPT Diocese of Wyoming

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

Charles Fuge Lowder, priest, 1880.

EPC: Ghana, Nigeria

Bishops Leadership Team Residential meeting – 9th to 11th September.

Ilesa (Nigeria)

TUES 10 SEPT

Anti-Suicide Day – see article on page 8 (Sunday 15th September).

Broom Leys

In vacancy. Steve O'Rourke (C), Jenny Holland (PA)

Please pray for our After School Church; a chance for all ages to worship together. Pray for vision and wisdom as we continue to explore forming a Minster Community. We want to deepen our faith and our love for Christ.

Ilesa South-West (Nigeria)

WED 11 SEPT

Coalville with Bardon Hill & Ravenstone

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

All Saints CE Primary School, Coalville

Prayer for the Benefice of Coalville with Bardon and Ravenstone; give thanks for prayerful, faithful Christians.

Pray for our church buildings, for the finances needed for upkeep and repair, for their use and in bringing people to Christ.

Pray for our Worship, our Welcome and our Witness.

North East India (North India)

THURS 12 SEPT

Hugglescote with Donington, Ellistown & Snibston

Laura Jackson (C), Christine Hall (AM), Trevelyn Hodson (AM)

New Toddler Group requires more leaders, as it grows. Create team for the family service and Messy Church to work together.

New Leaders for after school and Youth Group. Give thanks for good relations and support with Churches Together.

Northern Indiana (Episcopal Church)

FRI 13 SEPT

John Chrysostom, bishop, teacher of the faith, 407.

Indianapolis (Episcopal Church)

SAT 14 SEPT

Holy Cross Day

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

Inhambane (Mozambique and Angola)



People bereaved by the sudden death of a friend or family member are 65% more likely to attempt suicide if the deceased died by suicide than if they died by natural causes. It is grief with the volume turned up. There are many complex emotions involved including guilt, anger and shame. There is the constant question of 'WHY' going round in your head, a question you eventually realise will largely remain unanswered.

Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide (SOBS) was started over 30 years ago as a small house group. It has grown from there into a national charity. The charity provides both post-vention, helping the bereaved through those early, tumultuous days of numbness and disbelief; and prevention, by providing support for those who cannot face the grief or guilt and are in danger of suicide themselves. SOBS is unique in providing a support line to help those bereaved through those dark early days and also peer support groups, where the bereaved can support each other and talk to others who really know what it is like.

World Suicide Prevention Day

Highlighting the work of Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide (SOBS)

On the Friday before the early May Bank Holiday in 2007, my life and the lives of my family, relatives and friends changed for ever. We lost our eldest child and only son, Peter David Clark, to suicide. It is something you never really recover from, though in some ways you learn to live round it. The devastation it causes ripples out from the event to touch the lives of many.

We were lucky, if you can call it that: the police were able to give me Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide helpline number on the day Peter was found and I was able to telephone their helpline only a few days later and later on I was able to join a support group first in Nottingham, and then, Ilkeston.

I now volunteer for SOBS both on the Support Line for an hour three mornings a week and I also help facilitate the Loughborough Group.

Prayer Points

- Pray for those in deep despair who feel lost to God.
- Pray for all who are alone with no close family or friends.
- Pray for all those who find their mental ill-health hard to bear.
- Pray for all those lost in alcohol or drug addiction.
- Pray for students and young people who feel lost and alienated in the modern world.
- Pray for all who find no purpose or pleasure in life.
- Pray for all those who feel called to work with and help the suicidal, including psychiatric doctors and nurses, charities such as the Samaritans, Mind, Rethink and many others.
- Pray for Survivors of Bereavement by suicide, and all who seek to ease the grief and trauma of those bereaved by suicide.
- Pray for friends and families who provide loving support and strength to their loved ones.
- Pray for all healthcare staff and chaplaincy teams across Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland who seek to be a listening, hopeful presence for those with troubled lives.
- Pray for ourselves that we, as churches continue to seek prayerful and practical ways to bring God's loving presence into this world.

Angela Clark
Member of All Saints with Holy Trinity Church, Loughborough and Volunteer with SOBS

Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide's national support line: 0300 111 5065, available 9am - 7pm Monday - Friday

50th Anniversary Service – Leicester Cathedral Girls' Choir 50th Anniversary – Choral Evensong at 3.30pm.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:
Diocese of Ribe, Bishop Elof Westergaard

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

The Church of Nigeria



50 years of the first independent female top line in a Church of England Cathedral.

On Sunday, 1 September, 1974, a group of young women met at Leicester Cathedral for a choir practice, led by the then Assistant Master of the Music, Geoffrey Carter, and in so doing made history. This wasn't the first time that girls had sung in a cathedral choir – St Edmundsbury had a mixed choir at the time and before that, over the border in Wales, St Davids Cathedral, finding itself with perilously few boy choristers for a BBC broadcast in 1966, had hastily recruited girls from the local secondary school – but it was the first time that a Church of England cathedral had started a girls' top line, fully independent from the boy choristers.

Since then, Leicester has been at the forefront of the move towards gender equality. In 2000, Vivienne Faull became the first woman Provost of an English cathedral (and the first female Dean in 2002). In 2022, Leicester became the first cathedral to have an all-female clergy team, and the installation of Karen Rooms in 2024 made us the first cathedral to have had two female Deans. The current Precentor, Emma Davies, Assistant Director of Music, Rosie Vinter, and Head Verger, Bev Collett, are the first women to hold these posts at Leicester.

In 2012, the girls' top line was separated into a Junior Girls' Choir (Years 3 to 8) and a

Senior Girls' Choir (Year 9 and above), thereby requiring the girls to learn the same leadership skills within a similar timeframe as their male counterparts. The Covid pandemic reduced our number, however these are now steadily recovering, and we expect to be back to our target quota of 15 Senior Girls and 18 Junior Girls within two years. Since 2020, grant funding and generous individual donations have enabled us to offer all Senior Girls and Young Songmen free individual singing lessons, and from September 2024, all Boy and Junior Girl Choristers will receive free tuition on an instrument of their choice.

Leicester Cathedral will celebrate the Golden Anniversary of its Girls' Choir with a concert at 7.30pm on Saturday 14 September, compered by former chorister and now Classic FM presenter Katie Breathwick, and a celebratory Evensong on Sunday 15 September, at which a new anthem, commissioned from Cecilia McDowall to mark the occasion, will receive its world premiere.

Prayer points

- Pray for recruitment to our choirs, giving opportunity to all, whatever their background, and for the role of our schools' singing programme DioSing.
- Pray for the ongoing fundraising work needed to finance the work of the Music Department.
- Pray for Choristers, Choir Parents, Choral Scholars, Organists, Conductors and Choir Chaperones, that they may glimpse the divine through music and enhance worship, both in the Cathedral and around the Diocese through Together with Leicester Cathedral visits.

MON 16 SEPT Diocese of Trichy

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

Ninian, bishop, apostle of the Picts, c.432.

Edward Bouverie Pusey, priest, 1882.

EPC: Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay

Iowa (Episcopal Church)

TUES 17 SEPT

College of Bishops meeting 17th to 19th September

Ibstock with Heather

Andy Hartropp (C), Carole Oswin (R), Claire Hartropp (R), Judith Coleman (R)

St Denys CE Infant School, Ibstock

Hildegard, abbess, visionary, 1179

Iran (Jerusalem and the Middle East)

WED 18 SEPT

Whitwick, Thringstone & Swannington

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

Please pray for our continuing work in our local schools, especially our Open the Book team. We strive to reach out into the communities

with our Muddy Church (Whitwick) and after school club (Thringstone). Also, for our long term use of how we use our church buildings.

Irele Ese-Odo (Nigeria)

THURS 19 SEPT

Youth Mental Health Day – see article on page 12.

Theodore, archbishop, 690.

Isi Mbanu (Nigeria)

FRI 20 SEPT

Shepshed & Oaks in Charnwood

In vacancy, Michael Torne (R), Richard Rock (AM), Diane Melton (PA),

St Botolph's CE Primary School; Newcroft Primary School

John Coleridge Patteson, bishop, and companions, martyrs, 1871.

Isiala Ngwa (Nigeria)

SAT 21 SEPT

Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist.

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

Isiala-Ngwa South (Nigeria)



*Loving Creator God
Thank you that you so lovingly created us in your perfect image
We pray for our young people this youth mental health day
We pray that they would see your beauty in them
We pray that they would see their beauty in you
We pray that they would experience your loving nature
We pray for their well-being, that they would know your peace and your joy
Amen.*

Youth Mental Health Day 2024

In recent years there has been a growing awareness and concern for mental health. This has translated into more concern and understanding of the adversity that our young people face when it comes to their mental wellbeing - for example, with the appointment of an ambassador to the Prime Minister for youth mental health.

Adverse Mental Health

Young people are facing continued and emerging pressures with schooling and social media. Add to this a constant news cycle, ever-changing trends to conform with and other factors and there is quite the cocktail to adversely affect their mental health.

A major concern for our young people is fitting in. 31% of Global Majority Heritage participants in a survey commissioned by Mind identified stigma and racism as a cause of difficult emotion. 67% of those that identified as Gay or Lesbian identified the way they are treated because of their sexual orientation or gender as harmful to their wellbeing. Poor body image was also very heavily associated with causation of negative emotions.

Globally, 1 in 7 10–19-year-olds experience a mental health condition between the ages of 10 and 19 (World Health Organisation).

Wellbeing

We must remember mental wellbeing is a continuum ranging between mental ill-health and positive flourishing. As we think of young people this Youth Mental Health Day, let us not just focus on being well, but living in the fullness of God.

*Father God
We pray for our young peers
Would they know you
Would they know your fullness
Would they flourish to be all you created them to be
In Jesus name
Amen.*

Joel Plant

Bishops' Youth Council

Church of England:

Diocese of Sheffield, Bishop Pete Wilcox, Bishop Sophie Jelley

Church of Greenland:

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

The Church of North India

MON 23 SEPT Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

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

See article on page 38.

EPC: Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru

Isikwuato / Umunneochi (Nigeria)

TUES 24 SEPT

The Woodfield Team

In vacancy. Rick Tett (C), Debbie Kent (R), Norma Morris-Chapman (R-PTO), Derek Tomlin (R-PTO), Elisabeth Harrison (Evng), David Harrison (Evng), Judy Selby (PA), Joan Smith (PA-PTO)

St John Moore CE Primary School, Appleby Magna

Snarestone, Measham & Packington CE Primary Schools

Western Izon (Nigeria)

WED 25 SEPT

Lancelot Andrewes, bishop, spiritual writer, 1626

Sergei of Radonezh, monastic reformer, teacher of the faith, 1392

Ember Day

Jabalpur (North India)

THURS 26 SEPT

Ashby de la Zouch & Breedon on the Hill

Sue Field (Team Rector), Tim Phillips(C), Stephen Brook, Paul Harris & Richard Andrews (C-PTO), Andy Smith (R), Judith Lewis (R), Steve Clowes (R), Liz Smith (R), Sue Brown (R), Beth Lunt (AM), Graham Heath (AM), Christina Walmsley (LAM)

Viscount Beaumont C of E primary, Coleorton, St Hardulph's C of E primary, Breedon on the Hill, Newbold C of E primary, Ashby C of E primary

We give thanks for the strong relationships across the team and seek prayer that we will continue to find ways to support and resource one another in mission as we reach out to our communities, both town and rural.

Wilson Carlile, founder of the Church Army, 1942

Jaffna (South India)

FRI 27 SEPT

Christ the Redeemer, Blackfordby & Woodville

In vacancy.

Blackfordby & Woodville CE Primary Schools

Ember Day

Jalingo (Nigeria)

SAT 28 SEPT

Ember Day

God our Father, you give us gifts that we may work together in the service of your Son: bless the leaders of your Church, that they may be firm in faith, and humble before you. **Amen.**

Jamaica and Cayman Islands (West Indies)



Black History Month happens every October in the UK – and while it is a good time to commemorate and celebrate black voices, we would be naïve to think that the Church is well on its way to being a racially just body. Guvna B shares some challenges and suggestions in his article below, which is taken from the cover story of Premier Christianity April 2023 issue.

“I’d like to think the Church has made promising strides in the area of racial justice, but if there are Black people in our congregations who feel they aren’t welcome, we need to ask why that is, and what needs to change.

Before George Floyd there was Stephen Lawrence and countless others. Thirty years on from Stephen’s murder, I can’t help but ask: have attitudes towards race really changed – in wider society or in the Church? I travel to a lot of churches up and down the country to play music and speak to young people and, from what I’ve seen and heard, churches are not only becoming more diverse from the top down, but they’re also thinking more about the experiences of their Black members and how

they can build bridges. But the reason we can’t rest on our laurels is because there is still a lot of work to do.

I believe Christians are some of the best at helping those in need... handouts can feel great because they make us feel important, but do you know what’s more costly? The Church giving up some of its wealth, its comfort, its positioning and leaving the four walls of the building to get its hands dirty. Partnering, collaborating and building relationships with organisations and communities who are actively fighting against issues like racism is a start. We have to begin treating those we help like people, and not projects. When we start to do this, we tend to focus less on political or denominational agendas, and more on love and empathy.

Whether it’s the life-ending racist attack on Stephen Lawrence, the slow nine-minute murder of George Floyd, or the eye-opening attack on me in broad daylight, the thread that holds these three completely different events together is an attitude of hate. The antidote for that is love, something Jesus intended for the Church to have in abundance. The mandate is clear: “A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34-35).

Jessie Tang
Intercultural Ministry Director

Church in Wales:
Diocese of Swansea and Brecon,
Bishop John Lomas

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

The Church of Pakistan

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

EPC: Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela

Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

TUES 1 OCT

Gartree Deanery

Area Dean: Jane Micklethwaite; Assistant Area Dean: Nigel Byard (Lutterworth). Lay Chair: Phil Leech

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

Remigius, bishop, 533.

Anthony Ashley Cooper (Earl of Shaftesbury), social reformer, 1885.

Black History Month

Churches Together Meeting

Jebba (Nigeria)

WED 2 OCT

PTO Clergy Guthlaxton Deanery:

Rod Allard, Terry Colling, Myrtle Cook, Mick Gillespie, Victor Goodman, David Hebblewhite, Paula Oxley & Andy Rhoades.

A service in lament of homelessness – Leicester Cathedral – 5.30pm

In advance of world homeless day a gentle occasion with prayers, music, candles and silence, to remember those we have known who have died homeless on our streets and to stand in solidarity with all those who work to end homelessness. All are welcome.

Boniface (wynfrith), bishop, martyr, 754.

Jerusalem (Jerusalem and the Middle East)

THURS 3 OCT

Four Saints (Countesthorpe, Foston, Willoughby Waterleys & Peatling Magna):

Richard Reakes, Cameron Wiltshire-Plant (C), Jacqui Mcaughey (AM), Rod Allard and Mick Gillespie (C - PTO), June Ainge (R) Mike Oates (AM), Lindsey Jelves (R), Helen Stokes (AM), Gail Mackley (AM).

The Four Saints Benefice welcomes Cameron Wiltshire-Plant and his wife Harriet. Cam is to be our new curate.

The benefice continues to work together, to build relationships across the parishes to model what it is to be like as Christian communities and Kingdom people.

George Bell, bishop, ecumenist, peacemaker, 1958.

San Joaquin (Episcopal Church)

FRI 4 OCT

Francis of Assisi, friar, deacon, 1226.

Johannesburg (South Africa)

SAT 5 OCT

Jos (Nigeria)

SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER



Homelessness Day 2024

Today we mark Homelessness Sunday and World Homeless Day takes place around the world on Thursday 10th October. We choose to reflect on and pray for those affected by homelessness, in all its forms.

Homelessness is not just about a lack of physical security, it also carries with it a sense of powerlessness and frustration, often a feeling of being invisible and unheard.

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

In Leicester, we have some outstanding homelessness services and inspirational people who are dedicated to helping others every day under challenging circumstances. Leicester also has a homelessness Charter, led by the Diocese and Chaired by Revd Canon Alison Adams. The charter brings people, organisations, businesses and public bodies together around a shared vision to end street

homelessness. Our core message is clear: we are stronger when we work together.

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

Rebecca Pawley
Project Coordinator
Leicester Homelessness Charter

County Service at Melton Mowbray

Church of England:

Diocese of Liverpool, Bishop John Perumbalath,
Bishop Beverley Mason

Church in Wales:

Diocese of Monmouth, Bishop Cherry Vann

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:

Diocese of Haderslev,
Bishop Marianne Christiansen

The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

MON 7 OCT Diocese of Wyoming

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.
EPC: Costa Rica, El Savador, Nicaragua, Panama.

Juba (South Sudan)

TUES 8 OCT Hexagon Benefice

*In vacancy. Stephen March (C),
Arnesby & Husbands Bosworth CE Primary Schools*

Pray in thanks for someone who has reconnected to church and God through their repair of our church clock, resulting in Confirmation and volunteering to become our new Treasurer. *Kabba (Nigeria)*

WED 9 OCT Baby Loss Awareness Week

A service to mark Baby Loss Awareness Week – Leicester Cathedral – 5.30pm

For bereaved parents, whether recent or in the past, together with families and friends, to commemorate their babies' lives and to help in raising awareness about the issues which surround baby loss.

Pray for those who mourn the loss of a baby, comfort and strengthen them in the knowledge that you share their pain and that their child is wrapped in your loving arms. Amen

*Denys, bishop and companions, martyrs, c.250.
Robert Grosseteste, bishop, philosopher, scientist, 1253.*

Kadugli and Nuba Mountains (Sudan)

THURS 10 OCT World Mental Health Day: Prayer

A Prayer for World Mental Health Day

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: comfort and relieve those challenged by serious and chronic mental and emotional illnesses. Give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Paulinus, bishop, missionary, 644.

Thomas Traherne, poet, spiritual writer, 1674.

Kaduna (Nigeria)

FRI 11 OCT Broughton Astley & Croft with Stoney Stanton

*In vacancy, Lester Halling (R), Peter Yates (R-PTO), Victor Goodman (C-PTO)
Orchard Croft School, Broughton Astley*

Manorfield School, Stoney Stanton, Croft CE Primary School

We have a team taking "Open the Book" to all our primary schools, and have regular contact with Thomas Estley College. Messy church is active in Broughton Astley & Stoney Stanton.

Ethelburga, abbess, 675.

James the Deacon, companion of Paulinus, 7th cent.

Kafanchan (Nigeria)

SAT 12 OCT

Wilfrid, bishop, missionary, 709.

Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer, 1845.

Edith Cavell, nurse, 1915.

Kagera (Tanzania)



Prison Prayer Week

13th to 19th October 2024

This week we pray for all those who are in prison. Not just in this country but anywhere in the world. There are many who have done no crimes but are held captive: those whose political views differ from that of their government and those individuals who are prisoners of war. For many, prayer and hope is all they have. Pray not just for those people but for their living conditions, access to healthcare, clean water, and adequate food, as in most prisons in other countries, these things do not exist. We pray for their wellbeing and their mental health. It is extremely hard to be taken away from your family and friends, and to have little or no visits. Many families cut all ties with a prisoner, and they are left alone with no contact with the outside life that they knew. Some families have no idea where their loved one is or even if they are alive. We ask for prayers for those missing.

Volunteers who visit prisoners bring joy and love to many. These people selflessly give of their time to be with a prisoner. Those that do not visit write letters. All volunteers who work within the prison systems need prayer, not just for this week but every week.

We pray for families of prisoners: for God to give them the strength to carry on without their loved one. Many find the whole experience of having a family member in prison very traumatic and require help. Please pray for them to know god's guidance.

Victims of crime many never recover physically or mentally they can be prisoners in their own homes in their own minds. We pray that they have the help and support they need now and every day.

The Reverend Julia Bradshaw
Prison Chaplain



Week of Prayer for World Peace

13th – 20th October

Resources available at weekofprayerforworldpeace.co.uk

Founded in 1974, the Week of Prayer for World Peace has been an interfaith activity. The first chair, the late Dr Edward Carpenter, former Dean of Westminster Abbey, established the guiding principle of the Week in the words *“The peace of the world must be prayed for by the faiths of the world”*. This continues to be the basis of the Week.

For over 50 years, each October, people have gathered to talk, listen and pray for peace. The opening of the document to initiate the Week of Prayer for World Peace said, *‘In the turmoil of a world increasingly dominated by violence and characterised by bewilderment and confusion created by the apparent impotence of man to elevate sufferings caused by injustice except by more recourse to violence, it seems to us that an unprecedented spiritual initiative is urgently required’*. Sadly, 50 years on, those words still ring true today.

This year, as war fills our daily news it is important to continue praying for peace.

The World Prayer for Peace

For peace in your country
For the victims of violence everywhere
For those struggling for peace and justice
For churches in conflict situations
For a world without war and violence

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

Amen.

Peter Yates
Global Affairs

Church of England:

Diocese of Truro, vacancy – bishop of Truro,
Bishop Hugh Nelson

Church of Norway:

Diocese of Tönsberg, Bishop Jan Otto Myrseth

Church of Sweden:

Diocese of Strängnäs, Bishop Johan Dalman

The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

MON 14 OCT Diocese of Trichy

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

EPC: Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico.

Week of Prayer for World Peace

weekofprayerforworldpeace.co.uk

We pray for those lives, made in your image, damaged by violence. We pray for those in authority that they may use their power to bind wounds, heal relationships and find common ground. We pray for a transforming peace, turning fear into trust, pain into hope and doubt into confidence for a better future. We pray for world leaders that they may establish structures for justice, protecting human dignity, enabling reconciliation and building God's kingdom. **Amen.**

(Sue Cooper, CAFOD)

Kajiado (Kenya)

TUES 15 OCT Bishop's Leadership Team Meeting

Week of Prayer for World Peace

weekofprayerforworldpeace.co.uk

For Future Generations

Help us to imagine that another world is possible
And guide our actions towards the peace
You envision, the peace you have already given us.
In the name of the One who came so that we might have life,
And have it more abundantly, we pray. **Amen.**

(Adapted: Revd Loey Powell, United Church of Christ)

Teresa of Avila, teacher of the faith, 1582.

Kajo Keji (South Sudan)

WED 16 OCT Week of Prayer for World Peace

Week of Prayer for World Peace

weekofprayerforworldpeace.co.uk

For Creation

Teach us to love and not destroy
This wholesome world that you provide,
To deal in goods that do not harm
And turn from mutual genocide.
Secured by faith and fellowship,
In harmony with all and each,
Creation shall enjoy your peace,
And we will practice what we preach.

Amen.

(Abbreviated from a hymn by David J. Harding)

Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer, bishops, martyrs, 1555.

Kalima (Congo)

THURS 17 OCT Week of Prayer for World Peace

Week of Prayer for World Peace

weekofprayerforworldpeace.co.uk

For the Holy Land

We pray without ceasing for justice, reconciliation, peace, and an end to hatred and war. We also pray for God to change the hearts of all leaders and decision-makers in our countries and around the world, for we are in dire need of hearts that love, show mercy, and are willing to live in unity with others – hearts that respect human dignity and choose life rather than death. We entrust the countries of our Lord's earthly home into the hands of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, asking him to have mercy on us all and to give us his peace and blessing.

Amen.

(Archbishop Hosam Naoum, Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem)

Ignatius, bishop, martyr, c.107.

Kamango (Congo)

FRI 18 OCT Week of Prayer for World Peace

Week of Prayer for World Peace

weekofprayerforworldpeace.co.uk

God of peace, be with all those who live in fear and danger.

Heal those wounded by hate and conflict.

Teach us to love our enemies and live together with understanding and compassion.

Amen.

Luke the Evangelist

Almighty God, who inspired your servant Luke the physician to set forth in the Gospel the love and healing power of your Son: Graciously continue in your Church this love and power to heal, to the praise and glory of your Name; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Kampala (Uganda)

SAT 19 OCT Week of Prayer for World Peace

Week of Prayer for World Peace

weekofprayerforworldpeace.co.uk

For Displaced People

Help us, O Lord, to grow in compassion for those who are displaced from their homes in our day.

Help us not to see them only as problems, statistics or threats.

Help us to see refugees as fellow humans who have been forced to flee their homes.

Amen.

(Steve Plenert, Mennonite Central Committee, Manitoba)

Henry Martyn, translator, missionary, 1812.

Kano (Nigeria)



Week of Prayer for World Peace weekofprayerforworldpeace.co.uk

Keeping Hope Alive

- For love, which heals wounds, we will stand.
- For generosity, which opens space for hope, we will stand.
- For nurturing, which builds a culture of peace, we will stand.
- For respect, which enables us to love with difference, we will stand.
- For humility, which allows healthy relationships with others, we will stand.
- Together for hope, we will stand.

(A Pledge for Transformation)

Henry Martyn, translator, missionary, 1812.

Church of Sweden:

Diocese of Växjö, Bishop Fredrik Modéus

Church of England:

Diocese of Oxford, Bishop Steven Croft,
Bishop Olivia Graham, Bishop Gavin Collins,
Bishop Alan Wilson

Anglican Church of Rwanda

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

*Upper Soar
Sister Liz Heaton (C),
Ullesthorpe CE Primary School*

Pray for the newly launched Messy Church for the whole school at Ullesthorpe, that the seeds of faith may be sown. Guidance of the Spirit to identify the right time to try in other schools and in one of our Benefice churches.

EPC: Caribbean *Kansas (Episcopal Church)*

*In vacancy. Martin Stevenson (R-PTO), Eric Leese (R-PTO), Trevor Matthews (R-PTO)
St Peter's CE Primary School, Whetstone*

House of Bishops Meeting 22nd to 23rd October *Western Kansas (Episcopal Church)*

In vacancy. Trevor Matthews (R-PTO)

Pray for the Churchwardens, Reader, Church Officers and the visiting priests who continue helping to maintain services in the interregnum; and that the two recent infant baptisms, our good relations with village schools, and community outreach may bear fruit.

Kanyakumari (South India)

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

All Saints Thurlaston: Pray for the small congregation and PCC of Thurlaston and give thanks for developing relationships in the community.

Kapsabet (Kenya)

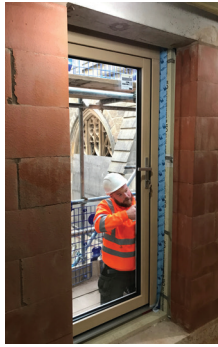
*Jane Micklethwaite (C)
Blaby Stokes CE Primary School*

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

Crispin and Crispinian, martyrs, c.287 *Karachi (Pakistan)*

*Alfred, king, scholar, 899.
Cedd, abbot, bishop 664.*

Karamojo (Uganda)



Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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.

Having completed repair and restoration of the cathedral building the focus is on constructing a new Heritage & Learning Centre, a striking extension to the Cathedral. Despite numerous challenges, good progress is being made and the centre will open in late autumn 2024, providing an exhibition gallery with immersive interpretation, a flexible learning space for school children and community groups, and WCs.

A key part of the project involves an exciting programme of events, exhibitions and activities – see the Cathedral website for full information.

Leicester Cathedral Revealed will realise our vision to restore the cathedral building, renew its sacred spaces, and reaffirm the Cathedral's place as the beating heart of our City and County.

Please pray for:

- Cathedral staff and volunteers involved with the project and preparing for the full re-opening of the Cathedral site with new facilities.
- All those delivering the 3-year programme of events, activities and engagement.
- Contractor and design team completing the complex building works for the new Heritage & Learning Centre.
- Ongoing efforts to secure the final funding needed to complete the project and the future archaeological analysis work to be undertaken.

Simon Bentley

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

Church of England:

Diocese of Carlisle, vacancy – bishop of Carlisle,
Bishop Rob Saner-Haigh

Church of Norway:

Diocese of Stavanger, Bishop Anne Lise Ådnø

The Scottish Episcopal Church



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

Simon & Jude, Apostles

EPC: Canada, USA

North Karamoja (Uganda)

In vacancy. Sharon March (AM)

Gilmorton Chandler CE Primary School, St Andrew's CE Primary School, North Kilworth, South Kilworth CE Primary School, Swinford CE Primary School

Here in Avon Swift God is on the move. People are being trained in leading worship and have started monthly Sunday worship in one of our churches. Schools are busy as usual. Pray for staff changes and new arrivals!

James Hannington, bishop, martyr, 1885.

Karimnager (South India)

Nigel Byard (C), Ruth Bilton (R-PTO), Peter Kent (AM),

Bitteswell CE Primary School, Sherrier CE Primary School, Lutterworth College

The churches in Lutterworth, Cotesbach and Bitteswell are restarting of face to face meetings with our Foodbank clients in the newly refurbished Chuchgate Community Centre. Our 'Youth Nights' meet every other Thursday. Sundays will be focusing on the story of Nehemiah with the encouragement to build towards the future.

Karnataka Central (South India)

Area Dean: In vacancy. Interim Area Dean: Kim Ford. Lay Chair: Pat Lockwood.

Please pray as we start to regroup that God would show us His vision for the Sparkenhoe West area. We can see he is at work and want to join in with what he is doing. Prayers of unity and clarity for both clergy and laity.

PTO Clergy Sparkenhoe West: John Armstrong, Paul Bromiley, Caroline Burnett, Sue Frost, David Jennings, Ruth Lambert, Malcolm Lambert, John Plant, Edward Pogmore & Bob Stephen.

Martin Luther, reformer, 1546

Karnataka North (South India)

O ALMIGHTY God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys, which thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Karnataka South (South India)

Almighty God, with whom the souls of the faithful who have departed this life are in joy and felicity: We praise and magnify your holy Name for all your servants who have finished their course in your faith and fear; and we most humbly pray that, at the day of resurrection, we and all who are members of the mystical body of your Son may be set on his right hand, and hear his most joyful voice: "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Grant this, O merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen**

Karongi (Rwanda)

SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER

International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians

Every year, on the first Sunday of November, we observe the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, and this year it takes place on November 3, 2024.

Over 365 million Christians face persecution and discrimination – that's one in seven believers worldwide. Today, persecution is in many forms, these incidents include physical assaults, threats, social ostracization, and the vandalism of churches and Christian-owned properties.

To speak of the persecution of Christians in terms of oppression is to speak of an on-going condition. There is an increase in incidents of violence and discrimination against Christians in India, Iran, Nepal, China and many more countries.

In my visits to northern India, Nepal, and China, I've spoken with new believers who follow Christ in secret, facing profound fear of life-threatening situations, legal consequences, and separation from their families, just to name a few.

In China, a church located in a hotel declined our request to attend the service, citing the potential loss of their operating permission if they admitted foreigners.

In Nepal, my friends have expressed growing concerns for persecuted Christians and churches.

In India, I encountered nearly a hundred secret Christians worshipping Jesus in a dark, 42-degree room. I used a mobile torch to look at my Bible to preach. Despite the challenging conditions, they transformed the space into a powerful place of worship within 15 minutes. The presence of God was tangible, ministering everyone.

Here in our Diocese, numerous refugee families,

new immigrants, and students share similar fears as they uphold their faith in Jesus. But we can stand with believers counting the highest cost for following Jesus.

As Christians, we need to remember the brothers and sisters in Christ who face persecution. In Ephesians 6:18, Paul says to be alert and pray for all of God's people.

Prayer points

- Pray for courage for those who remain in their homeland and governments to respond to the needs of them.
- Pray that as they share in Christ's sufferings, they would be able to rejoice in the hope God offers them.
- Pray that they would have opportunities to gather, and that God would supply their needs for a community.
- Pray for women who are socially vulnerable or have lost the custody of their children because of their faith.
- 2 Samuel 22:29-31, which says, "*For you are my lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness.*" This verse resonates deeply with millions of Christians who will unite in prayer for our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world. Ask God what we/our church communities can do to welcome, support and strengthen them?

Shobha Gosa

Intercultural Pioneer Minister, Martyrs Church

Church of England:

Diocese of Winchester, Bishop Philip Mountstephen, Bishop David Williams, vacancy – bishop of Southampton

Church of Norway:

Diocese of Agder and Telemark, Bishop Stein Reinertsen

Church of the Province of South East Asia

MON 4 NOV Diocese of Wyoming

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

EPC: Oceania.

Kasai-Mbujimayi (Congo)

TUES 5 NOV Newbold de Verdun, Barlestone & Kirkby Mallory, Peckleton & Tooley

Jonny Gordon, John Downs (C), Roger Dunster (R-PTO), Barlestone CE Primary School

Katakwa (Kenya)

WED 6 NOV Barwell cum Stapleton and Potters Marston

Philip Watson (C), Lynda Plumpton (R), Debra Watson (R) Barwell CE Primary School

Please pray for our Advent study series, that all taking part will be really well prepared to celebrate the Christmas season. Pray for the group leaders to have wisdom and for newcomers to the groups to feel welcome.

Leonard, hermit, 6th cent.

William Temple, archbishop, teacher of the faith, 1944.

Katanga (Congo)

THURS 7 NOV Burbage with Aston Flamville

Andrew Hall (C), Mary Tynan (AM), Don Peacock and Louise Brown (AM) Burbage CE Infants School

Please pray for our team as seek to serve our Parish. We are changing the sequence of evensong services to include a healing and wholeness service in our monthly cycle. Also for the counted growth in our Messy Church and Luncheon Clubs.

Willibrord, bishop, 739.

Katsina (Nigeria)

FRI 8 NOV Saints and Martyrs of England

Almighty God, by whose grace and power your holy martyrs triumphed over suffering and was faithful unto death:

strengthen us with your grace,
that we may endure reproach and persecution
and faithfully bear witness to the name
of 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.

Kebbi (Nigeria)

SAT 9 NOV

Margery Kempe, mystic, c. 1440.

Kentucky (Episcopal Church)



Earlier this year, I was honoured to speak and pray at the Memorial Gates Ceremony to mark the 80th anniversary of the Second World War Battles of Imphal and Kohima, and the Fourteenth Army who fought in them. Within the Fourteenth Army, which is credited with turning the tide of war in South Asia, 40 languages were spoken; and Christians, Hindus, Muslims, Jews and Sikhs fought alongside each other. Of its thirteen divisions, eight were drawn from India, three from Africa, and two from Britain.

Each year, the Memorial Gates Ceremony coincides with Commonwealth Day as the memorial, inaugurated in 2002 by HM Queen Elizabeth II, honours the five million men and women from Africa, the Caribbean and the Indian subcontinent (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) who volunteered to serve with the British Armed Forces during the First and Second World Wars.

Taking part in the service, I was reminded of how what, whom and how we remember can shape who we become. Our memories can cause separations – when we highlight some events and experiences while forgetting or ignoring others; or when we hold onto dividing lines which Christ calls us to cross.

But, remembrance, particularly of events like the World Wars where the impact was truly global, can also bring people together. Since events like war are so hard for us to fathom and comprehend, we especially need to make room for different voices and perspectives in order to glimpse something of God in even the deepest of tragedies.

As Christians, even though we were not present at the foot of the cross, we are a people formed and re-formed through ‘remembering’ the death of our Saviour. So, this Remembrance Sunday, how can you make space for new voices, new memories, and so create space for more people to belong?

+Saju Muthalaly
Bishop of Loughborough

Remembrance Sunday Prayer

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



Living and working in Leicester, every week is an interfaith week of some sort. I do not just mean that my job, working as director of the St Philip's Centre, means that I regularly interact with people of different religions and beliefs. I mean that it is simply part of everyday life. I might, for example, be picking one of my children up from an event and chat to another parent while I wait. They may tell me about a particular festival they are currently celebrating or a significant religious event that is coming up.

At different times in the year there are decorations in the street or processions or posters or all kinds of reminders of the vibrant mix of religions, traditions, and cultures that make up the city. And what is true of Leicester is equally true, albeit to a lesser extent, of Leicestershire. The suburbs in the immediate environs of the city are already very diverse, and that diversity is spreading along the main roads across the county, as well as in the villages and smaller towns. The point of Interfaith Week is to offer an opportunity to intentionally focus on building relationships with people who are different from us, on looking for opportunities to encounter those differences, and to understand how different people see the world.

I never expect people to agree on everything; indeed if they find themselves always agreeing, then the relationship probably hasn't gotten deep enough for them to share everything about themselves. Once we understand other people and where they are coming from, it is so much easier to build relationships of trust as we co-operate for the good of all. There are many difficulties and challenges we face as a society, and we are much better able to face them together.

This Interfaith Week, why not take the opportunity to find somebody who sees the world differently from how you see it and get to know them a little bit better?

Revd Dr Tom Wilson
Director, St Philip's Centre

Church of England:
Diocese of Norwich, Bishop Graham Usher,
Bishop Ian Bishop, Bishop Jane Steen

Church of Sweden:
Diocese of Luleå, Bishop Åsa Nyström

The Church of South India

MON 11 NOV Diocese of Trichy

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

Martin, bishop, c.397

EPC: Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia

Armistice Day: Prayer

Ever-living God, we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

South Kerala (South India)

TUES 12 NOV Bishop's Leadership Team Meeting

Earl Shilton cum Elmesthorpe

Martin Castle (C)

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

For our two churches as we seek to develop our relationship with the two Church of England Schools and for St Mary's as we discern how we can help people connect with the Good News of Jesus Christ. For those preparing for baptism and confirmation.

Kericho (Kenya)

WED 13 NOV IWC Programme Board Meeting

Hinckley St Mary

Ian Hill (C), Bob Stephen (C -PTO), Penny Stephen (AM)

St Mary's CE Primary School

We thank God for the new people who have joined us for our worship, for our reinstated regular Evensong services, for our Roots Course on the Nicene Creed, for those who help keep our church open and vibrant, and for all that God is doing through us.

Charles Simeon, priest, evangelical divine, 1836

Khahlamba (Southern Africa)

THURS 14 NOV St John, Hinckley

Tom Brown (C).

Please pray for those new in their Christian faith to continue to be well rooted in Christ and live their whole life in Him (Colossians 2:6&7) and for a strengthened heart of prayer for our local community.

Samuel Seabury, bishop, 1796.

Khartoum (Sudan)

FRI 15 NOV

Beacon Church – Church Plant from St John's – at the St Francis Centre, Hinckley.

Led by Kim Ford and team.

The Beacon church has been through some transition. However, we are on a good footing and we are growing. God is bringing in so many who would not normally go to 'Church,' we are seeing him work in so many ways. Prayers for strength and breakthrough in the lives of those who come.

Kibondo (Tanzania)

SAT 16 NOV

Margaret, queen, philanthropist, 1093.

Edmund Rich, archbishop, 1240.

Kibungo (Rwanda)

Safeguarding Sunday

The theme for Safeguarding Sunday 17th November 2024 is – **'Let's talk about it'**.

Protecting vulnerable people from harm and speaking up for their rights is an integral part of our scriptural mandate as Christians (Proverbs 31:8). But sadly, the church hasn't always done this well.

Let's Talk About It

Many churches are working hard to get safeguarding right. We need to talk about it, to ensure everyone in our churches is aware of their part in safeguarding, what arrangements you have in place, and how to be alert to the risks of abuse from within and outside the church.

As well as talking about it, it's also your chance to consider the journey your church is on with safeguarding. You can reflect on where you may have got things wrong and think about how you are supporting those who have been hurt or harmed.

You can highlight the good work being done behind the scenes and to show your church and community that you are committed to protecting vulnerable people and creating safer cultures and communities for all both now and in the future.

Whatever the tradition or style of your church, you can show how safeguarding is an important part of the Christian message of justice and hope. Whether it's including a prayer, preaching a sermon, or showing a short film, everything counts.

Just because we've designated a Sunday to the campaign, doesn't mean you have to stick to that day. You might choose to run smaller events at different times. The message is more important than the day.

Churches who take part in Safeguarding Sunday see:

- GREATER positive awareness and understanding of safeguarding among church members.
- An INCREASE in the number of people feeling able to talk about their abuse for the first time.
- MORE volunteers coming forward for safeguarding roles and to help with children's/



youth work.

- An INCREASED number of people completing safeguarding training and criminal record checks.
- And the number of Safeguarding Leads feeling supported in their role by the church is BIGGER!

If you would like to register your church for Safeguarding Sunday go to: SafeguardingSunday.org

Adapted from Thirtyone:Eight publicity

A Prayer for Safeguarding Sunday:

Dear God, Help us to be a church that: Loves, welcomes, protects.

Listens, learns, serves. Repents, restores, transforms. Values, cares, believes.

God of justice and compassion, hear our prayer. Help us, heal us, guide us, we pray.

In Jesus name. Amen

Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church:

Archbishop Urmas Viilma, Bishop Tiit Salumäe, Bishop Joel Luhamets

Church of England: Diocese of Rochester, Bishop

Jonathan Gibbs, Bishop Simon Burton-Jones

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

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

Elizabeth, princess, philanthropist, 1231

EPC: East Timor (Timor Leste), Indonesia, Philippines

Kigali (Rwanda)

TUES 19 NOV Bosworth Benefice

In vacancy. Ann Hall (C), Pat Lockwood (R-PTO), Colleen Annan (R-PTO).

Market Bosworth St Peter's CE Primary School

The seven churches in the Bosworth Benefice, will work well together during the time of vacancy and continue to show the love of God to those who attend our services, Little Fishes, and community outreach especially in our local schools.

Hilda, abbess, 680.

Mechtild, béguine, mystic, 1280.

Kigeme (Rwanda)

WED 20 NOV Sheepy

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

Sheepy CofE Primary School.

Rejoicing in 'open doors' six churches, welcoming visitors during the Summer months and on into the Autumn. Our outreach through Sheepy CofE school is flourishing and changing the lives of our youngsters, enabling staff and families in challenging times to have hope in the gospel.

Edmund, king, martyr, 870.

Priscilla Lydia Sellon, a restorer of the religious life in the Church of England.

Kigezi (Uganda)

THURS 21 NOV Fenn Lanes Group

Emily Sharman (C), Jan Harding (R), Carolyn Patullo (R), Michelle Nelson (AM).

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

We give thanks for the relationships between our churches and church schools and pray for the continued development of these relationships, thinking particularly of our Open the Book team and regular collective worship.

North Kigezi (Uganda)

FRI 22 NOV Sapcote and Sharnford cum Wigston Parva

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

All Saints CE Primary School Sapcote, and Sharnford Primary School.

Please pray for our newly re-commissioned and growing Local Ministry Team and for our intergenerational worship as we build on the first year of our Breakfast and Café services.

Cecilia, martyr, c.230.

Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh (Ireland)

SAT 23 NOV Diocesan Synod

Clement, bishop, martyr, c.100.

Kimberley and Kuruman (Southern Africa)



We waited in darkness anticipating the coming (adventus) of Christ. We sang with joy at the birth of the Christ child, the One to establish God's reign on earth. We walked with Jesus the narrow way of the cross, which continues to confront us by the sheer suffering of love. Now, at the conclusion of the Church's liturgical year, we return to Pilate's quarters to celebrate the Feast of Christ the King.

The drama centres on questions of authority and kingship (John 18.33-37), and in a subject state of the Roman Empire, to question Caesar's authority is both treason and deathly. But Jesus' portrayal of kingship is somewhat different, borne out of one of love and sacrifice, underscored by humility and suffering. The kind of king who calls to the kingdom those who are hungry, those who are thirsty. The kind of king who welcomes the outcast, refugee, and stranger. The kind of king whose reign is defined by love for the lost to be found. And so, Jesus' response to the charge that he is claiming kingship, is that God's loving reign holds ultimate

truth and authority. May we seek the same, for this is where the Kingdom of God, that of which Christ is King, begins.

A prayer for Christ the King.

Come, my Light, and illumine my darkness.
 Come, my Life, and revive me from death.
 Come, my Physician, and heal my wounds.
 Come, Flame of divine love, and burn up the thorns of my sins,
 kindling my heart with the flame of your love.
 Come, my King, sit upon the throne of my heart and reign there,
 for you alone are my King and my Lord.

Amen.

Dimitri of Rostov (1709)

The Revd Paul Betts

Interim Bishop's Chaplain and Curate,
 The Wigston Benefice



Church of England:

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

Scottish Episcopal Church:

Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney,
 Bishop Anne Dyer

The Anglican Church of South America

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.
 Mary, Martha and Lazarus, companions of our Lord

EPC: Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore.

Catherine, martyr, 4th cent.

Isaac Watts, hymn writer, 1748.

Kindu (Congo)

Area Dean: Ed Bampton; Assistant Area Dean: Dave Hover. Lay Chair: Marian Driver.

We ask for prayer for those in our deanery who are engaged in Minster Community conversations, for wisdom and discernment. We pray for us all to continue to work in and with our communities to show the love of Christ.

Kinkiizi (Uganda)

PTO Clergy Sparkenhoe East: Pauline Ashby, Pam Harvey & John Woolmer.

Kinshasa (Congo)

Grobby & Ratby

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

We give thanks for our new Children and Youth worker, Louise Brown, shared with the URC and the growth in our work with children, youth and families. We also give thanks for Joan Hawkins transferring to Associate Minister and all the work she does.

Kirinyaga (Kenya)

Day of Intercession and Thanksgiving for the Missionary Work of the Church

*Almighty God,
 who called your Church to witness
 that in Christ you were reconciling the world to yourself:
 help us so to proclaim the good news of your love,
 that all who hear it may be reconciled to you
 through him who died for us and rose again
 and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

Kisangani (Congo)

Andrew the Apostle

O good Cross, made beautiful by the body of the Lord: long have I desired you, ardently have I loved you, unceasingly have I sought you out; and now you are ready for my eager soul. Receive me from among men and restore me to my Master, so that he - who, by means of you, in dying redeemed me - may receive me. Amen.

Kita-Kanto (Japan)



King of Kings by Liz Hes

Waiting with Hope

Jeremiah 33:15 *"In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land."*

Waiting is an inherently hopeful thing. As we wait, we expect and hope for what is to come. To stop waiting means that either our hopes have been fulfilled, or we have given up in despair. We are waiting with hope. Mary is waiting with hope for the birth of the baby in her belly. She is waiting with hope, to hold that precious baby.

What are you waiting for with hope?

As Mary was waiting for her baby to be born, the people of Israel were waiting for a descendant of King David to come. The Son of David would bring justice and righteousness to Israel. He would ensure that all would have enough to live and flourish, enough food for all, a safe home and time to rest and rejoice in God's good gifts. He would bring about the Kingdom of God.

Mary was waiting and carrying that hope in her womb and the birth of her child marked the arrival of God's Kingdom on Earth. And like Mary we are waiting with hope, for Jesus Christ to return and bring about the final fulfilment of all God's promises for justice, righteousness and peace for all the world.

Prayer Prompts

Waiting with hope, we pray for God to let the justice and righteousness of God's Kingdom to shape our words and actions.

Waiting with hope, we pray for God's Kingdom to come here on Earth.

Waiting with hope, we pray for God to pour hope into the hearts of all who are filled with despair.

The Revd Manuela Schmucki

Scottish Episcopal Church:

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

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:

Diocese of Porvoo, Bishop Bo-Göran Åstrand

*Province of the Episcopal Church
of South Sudan*

MON 2 DEC Diocese of Wyoming

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

East Midlands Bishops meeting 2nd and 3rd December.

International Day for Abolition of Slavery

God of compassion and mercy, just as you helped Aaron and Moses as they spoke boldly to Pharaoh on behalf of the Hebrew slaves in Egypt, help us speak up for modern slaves around the world and even in our own back yards. You gather the outcast, heal the broken hearted and bind up their wounds; please bring liberty and freedom to all whose lives are entangled in slavery and trafficking in our world today. Lift up the downtrodden and tread wickedness into the dust: We make our prayer through Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in perfect freedom, One God, now and forever.

Amen.

EPC: Myanmar, Thailand

Kitale (Kenya)

TUES 3 DEC International Day of Persons with Disabilities

On this International Day of People with Disability, we recognise we are all people who are made in the image and likeness of our loving God. We welcome all to our prayer, knowing that each of us brings unique gifts to share that reflect the beauty of our creator. We give thanks for God's holy presence among us, and for the chance to encounter God through each other. **Amen.**

Francis Xavier, missionary, 1552.

Kiteto (Tanzania)

WED 4 DEC

John of Damascus, monk, teacher of the faith, c.749.

Nicholas Ferrar, deacon, founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637.

Kitgum (Uganda)

THURS 5 DEC Glenfield & Newtown Linford

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

Kitui (Kenya)

FRI 6 DEC Anstey & Thurcaston with Cropston

**Matthew Gough (C), Ian Dutton (AM),
Richard Hill CE Primary School, Thurcaston**

Thanks for growing congregations with fledgling youth groups. Pray for our trainee Associate Minister and welcoming our new Ordinand. Pray for our Churches Together unity and purpose with ministry bearing fruit in our communities and schools.

Nicholas, bishop, c.326.

Kivu (Rwanda)

SAT 7 DEC

Ambrose, bishop, teacher of the faith, 397.

North Kivu (Congo)



Peace Wall in Philadelphia by Jane Golden and Peter Pagast. Photo by Jack Ramsdale

Waiting for Peace

Luke 1.78-79 "In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Words very familiar to those who participate in the office of Morning Prayer.

Words to engage with and treasure. Words not of empty hope but of faithful certitude. It will happen. God will do this.

It's easy to throw brickbats at Christianity. Where is your God? Look at the mess the world is in! Even Jesus experienced that scorn. I hope we know better. Advent is a serious season, when we tell God's history to recognize afresh God's faithful commitment to God's people. Joining the dots to recognize the arc of eternity in all that has and will take place. But also recognizing through the ancient stories, that God is no absent puller of strings when it suits, but ever-present – from the corridors of power to the heartbeat of our individual lives.

As December marches on, the sound of carols becomes more insistent. People love carols – what are they often singing about but

a yearning for peace? Reach for your hymn book to check out these lyrics 'it came upon a midnight clear... 'Here we name the Babel of humanity – the lack of peace is not God's desire – but here also we recognize the promise of peace in the future that lies ahead of us.

In the meantime let's hold before God those who suffer acutely from humanity's deafness to the voice of the angels conveying so clearly the divine intention. **So may we pray for:**

- Places, nations and peoples in the news today because of conflict;
- Leaders, both political and military, who hold the reins of power in these places;
- The United Nations and other bodies who seek to influence, persuade and change attitudes and policies in the pursuit of peace;
- Individuals we know who have flown their country of origin because of conflict.

The Revd Canon Alison Adams
Canon Pastor

Global Carol Service at the Cathedral

Church of England:

Diocese of Chester, Bishop Mark Tanner,
Bishop Julie Conalty, Bishop Sam Corley

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:

Diocese of Kuopio, Bishop Jari Jolkkonen

Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan

MON 9 DEC Diocese of Trichy

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

EPC: Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

Kobe (Japan)

TUES 10 DEC Desford & Kirby Muxloe

Gareth Hutchinson (C), Tony Stokes (R).

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

House of Bishops Meeting

Koforidua (West Africa)

WED 11 DEC Leicester Forest East & St Crispin Braunstone Town with Thorpe Astley

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

Please pray for wisdom and discernment as we navigate the Minster Community formation process, honouring the past and moving forward into a new future building relationships in mission with new partner churches.

Ember Day.

Kolhapur (North India)

THURS 12 DEC Markfield, Thornton, Bagworth, Stanton under Bardon & Copt Oak

Andrew Smith, Pauline Ashby (C), Peter Maynard, Delia Geary (AM).

Please pray for the J22 group of churches as we continue to unite as a Benefice and share the good news of Christ in our communities, schools and businesses.

Kollam-Kottarakkara (South India)

FRI 13 DEC

Ember Day.

Lucy, martyr, 304

Samuel Johnson, moralist

Kondoa (Tanzania)

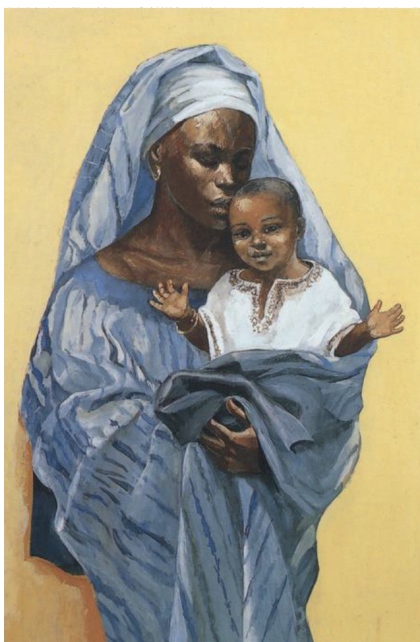
SAT 14 DEC

Ember Day.

John of the Cross, poet, teacher of the faith, 1591.

Kongor (South Sudan)

Virgin and Child by Jesus Mafa



during this important time of waiting – and is definitely something to feel joyful about!

It's true that the hustle and bustle of the festive season can offer us many little joys – the colours, the lights, the sounds, the opportunities – but these are, after all, only fleeting. Instead, we can be reassured that true, inexhaustible joy comes in focussing our eyes ahead and above on God, and on the miraculous gift we are anticipating – God coming to be with us through the birth of Jesus, something that will transform and free us all. The news of 'God with us' is SO good, so exciting, so overwhelming, that we shouldn't forget that we are also called to be joyful and glad here in our waiting, too.

Prayer Prompts:

- Give thanks for the joy and excitement that waiting for Christ brings
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will encourage us to slow down and notice all that brings us joy during this busy time
- Pray for those for whom this time of year is challenging and difficult, that we might support and encourage each other in our search for joy

Jude Taylor

Discipleship Officer, Leicester Cathedral

Church of England:

Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham,
Bishop Paul Williams, Bishop Andy Emerton

Church of Norway:

Diocese of Borg,
Bishop Kari Mangrud Alfsvåg

The Anglican Church of Tanzania

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

EPC: Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and the Mainland of China

Kongor (South Sudan)

O Sapientia.

Eglantyne Jebb, social reformer, founder of 'Save the Children' 1928.

Kontagora (Nigeria)

O Adonai.

Bishop's Leadership Team meeting.

Kootenay (Canada)

O Radix Jesse.

Eastern Kowloon (Hong Kong)

O Clavis David.

Western Kowloon (Hong Kong)

O Oriens.

Krishna-Godaviri (South India)



and Judith (Jtd 13.11). These words anticipate her hymn, which like those of Deborah and Judith, celebrates God's redemption of Israel. This redemption is long awaited, something both Simeon and Anna in the temple remind us about.

Elizabeth also speaks blessing over the child Mary is carrying, who, like her, is in receipt of God's attention, love and favour. These are warm words of love. Mary experiences double affirmation from Elizabeth – for herself and for the child she carries. In the vulnerability of pregnancy such words must have brought strength and encouragement. How lovely to have your unborn child blessed, prayed for and placed in the centre of God's heart of love! This little one she is keeping safe, whispering love to, protecting with her whole self, is also guarded and loved through Elizabeth's words. What a beautiful moment for any mother waiting for the birth, for newness.

- Pray for all those waiting for a birth, and for ante natal care in troubled parts of the world.
- Pray for women engaged in ministry: those who nurture and those who speak prophetically.
- Pray for a joyful church caught up in proclaiming joy and blessing.

The Very Revd Karen Rooms
Dean of Leicester

Church of Norway:
Diocese of Oslo, Bishop Kari Veiteberg

Church of England:
Diocese of Durham, Bishop Paul Butler,
Bishop Sarah Clark

Scottish Episcopal Church:
Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness,
Bishop Mark Strange (Primus)
The Church of the Province of Uganda

O Rex Gentium

Waiting with Love

Luke 1,41a *"When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb."*

The arrival of Mary at Elizabeth's home is a moment of pure love and joy. An older woman and a teenage girl are swept up in a conspiracy of exultation. Like Naomi and Ruth before them they are participants in the purposes of God in their community.

In their immediate history, this story has gone quiet. The faithful were waiting in love. Groaning under foreign powers. Looking for the promised messiah to lead them to freedom again. This waiting is coming to an end. Mary and Elizabeth feel it in their bodies and souls. They have heard words from the messengers of God, believed them to be true, and leant in to welcome the promised future. It seems the child John leaps in joy to be part of what God is doing right there and then, here and now in their world.

Like prophets before her, Elizabeth speaks blessing over Mary, announcing that she is truly blessed by God. This places Mary alongside powerful Jewish women who are also proclaimed blessed, Jael (Judges 5.24)

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

EPC: Japan, North Korea, South Korea

Kubwa (Nigeria)

Kuching (South East Asia)



Mary with Child by an unknown Japanese Artist

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love Have Come

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

'Do not be afraid!' When angels appear in the Bible, these are very often the first words they say. And these are indeed the first words that some ordinary shepherds on a hillside outside Bethlehem heard about 2000 years ago when an angel came dazzling into the darkness of their night watch. Do not be afraid. The first words of Christmas.

Perhaps these are still the first words you need to hear this Christmas Day. We live in anxious times and many of us are fearful, dealing with fractured lives in a frightening world. 'Do not be afraid' said the angel, bringing God's message, 'for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy'. Many of us turn off the news because the needs and sorrows of the world can seem so overwhelming. But the news God brought to the world was good news of great joy – news of a baby, helpless in human hands, yet containing the very life of God. God came very close to us in the child Jesus and continues to come close to each of us who open our hearts to him. God came then to ordinary people in everyday life, and God comes still to us now whoever we are, however we feel, whatever we face.

This Christmas Day, as you picture Mary cradling Jesus,
may you know the arms of God surrounding you in love.
As you imagine the sight of that angel on the hillside,
may you entrust your fears to God who alone can bring true peace and hope.
And may you hear the message of Christmas anew:
Do not be afraid! Here is good news of joy – and peace and hope and love.
A blessed Christmas to you all!

Prayer Prompts:

- for those who are fearful and anxious that they would know God's peace and hope.
- for those whose lives and relationships are broken that they would know God's love.
- for those who are sorrowful this Christmas that they would glimpse God's joy.

The Revd Canon Emma Davies
Canon Precentor

Kumasi (West Africa)

THURS 26 DEC

Stephen, deacon, first martyr.

Grant, O Lord, that in all our sufferings here upon earth, for the testimony of thy truth, we may stedfastly look up to heaven, and by faith behold the glory that shall be revealed; and, being filled with the Holy Ghost, may learn to love and bless our persecutors by the example of thy first Martyr Saint Stephen, who prayed for his murderers to thee, O blessed Jesus, who standest at the right hand of God to succour all those that suffer for thee, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen**

Kumi (Uganda)

FRI 27 DEC

John, Apostle and Evangelist.

Kurunegala (Ceylon)

SAT 28 DEC

The Holy Innocents.

Kushtia (Bangladesh)

SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER

Church of England:

*Diocese of Chichester, Bishop Martin Warner,
Bishop Ruth Bushyager, Bishop Will Hazlewood*

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:

Diocese of Mikkeli, Bishop Mari Parkkinen

The Episcopal Church

MON 30 DEC Diocese of Wyoming

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

EPC: Stateless People.

Kutgi (Nigeria)

TUES 31 DEC

Prayer for the New Year

*God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
whose years never fail
and whose mercies are new each returning day:
let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives,
warming our hearts and giving light to our minds;
that we may pass the coming year
in joyful obedience and firm faith;
through him who is the beginning and the end,
your Son, Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

John Wyclif, reformer, 1384

Kwara (Nigeria)

3 KEY QUESTIONS AND 5 DIOCESAN PRIORITIES SIMPLIFIED



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?

God of our salvation,
hope of all the ends of the earth, we pray:
Thy kingdom come.
That the world may know Jesus Christ
as the Prince of Peace, we pray:
Thy kingdom come.
That we may be bold to speak the word of God

while you stretch out your hand to save,
we pray: Thy kingdom come.
That the Church may be generous in giving,
faithful in serving, bold in proclaiming, we pray:
Thy kingdom come.
That the day may come when every knee shall
bow and every tongue confess that Jesus
Christ is Lord, we pray:
Thy kingdom come, 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?
O Lord, open my eyes that I may see the needs
of others
Open my ears that I may hear their cries;
Open my heart so that they need not be
without comfort;
Let me not be afraid to defend the weak
because of the anger of the strong,
Nor afraid to defend the poor because of the
anger of the rich.
Show me where love and hope and faith are
needed,
And use me to bring them to those places.
And so open my eyes and my ears
That I may this coming day be able to do some
work of peace for thee. Amen.

5 Diocesan Strategic Priorities

Intercultural Communities

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

Intergenerational Communities

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

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.

Reconciling Communities

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

Eco Communities

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

O God,
you created all people in your image.
We thank you for the astonishing variety
of races and cultures in this world.
Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of friendship,
and show us your presence
in those who differ most from us,
until our knowledge of your love is made perfect
in our love for all your children;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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



Launde Abbey, East Norton
Leicestershire LE7 9XB





Diocese of
Leicester