

Cycle of Prayer

01 - 31 March 2023

01 March 2023

Hoole

Please pray for our...

Clergy: The Revd Craig Gaudion, The Revd Sam Durdant-Hollamby

Lay Workers: Ms Vicki Bulgin, Mrs Tina Trevett, Canon Dr Jeff Turnbull

Anglican Communion: North Queensland, The Anglican Church of Australia

02 March 2023

Kelsall

Please pray for our...

Clergy: The Revd Susan Banks

Lay Workers: John Diggle

For the outreach to our community through our Place of Welcome cafe and our continued working together of our ecumenical partnership with Kelsall Methodist Church as we discern the next steps of our shared vision.

Anglican Communion: Raiwind, The (united) Church of Pakistan

03 March 2023

Lache cum Saltney

Please pray for our...

Clergy: Revd. Hana Amner, Revd Liz Mills, Revd Simon Chesters, Revd Wendy Steadman and Revd. Hennie Johnston

Pray for Revd Hana Amner as she seeks God's guidance as where He is leading her following her end of curacy. Give thanks for Revd Liz Mills who is being licensed as an Associate Minister on Feb 13th. And prayer as we go forward with our Faith Building Project.

Anglican Communion: Rajasthan, The (united) Church of North India

04 March 2023

Plemstall

Please pray for our...

Clergy: The Revd Heather Carty, The Revd Sarah Batchelor

Anglican Communion: Rayalaseema, The (united) Church of South India

05 March 2023

Spiritual Accompaniment

Chester Diocese offers a list of people who offer the ministry of Spiritual Accompaniment to anyone, lay or ordained. These are people trained to listen, trained to offer a safe and confidential space so people can share their uncertainties, challenges, joys and sorrows. It's vital ministry for these times.

We are about to begin a new course, SALT (Spiritual Accompaniment Learning Together). It's designed to welcome others into this ministry, people who love to listen to others and walk alongside. People who may have vast experience or very little; deep knowledge or just beginner's enthusiasm.

SALT is going to be a rolling programme, so it will start in May 2023, and after that, new people wanting to join the ministry will be able to apply and join the course at a later stage. Each participant will work with a mentor and they between them will choose from what is offered, so that the course meets each individual's needs. Over the two years of the course there will be a variety of learning opportunities - with the mentor, through teaching and retreats at Foxhill, in small group practice, in supervision groups around the Diocese and in receiving of individual spiritual accompaniment.

For those who sense that God is calling them into this ministry, they should contact

spirituality@chester.anglican.org for further details. There will be a discernment day on 13 May 2023.

Please pray:

- Pray that the ministry of spiritual accompaniment would be encountered and offered in all sorts of places around the Diocese.
- Pray that people would grow through the ministry of listening and through encounters with the God who meets us in love.
- Pray that news of the SALT course would be distributed widely and talked about - and pray for all the ways it can be communicated and passed on.
- Pray that people who hear about the ministry of spiritual accompaniment and about SALT, and sense God's prompting, would follow that prompting and apply.
- Pray for the team putting the course together and for those who will discern with individuals, mentor in groups and teach modules - especially for people from different corners of our big Diocese.

Please pray for our...

Anglican Communion: Church of the Province of South East Asia,

06 March 2023

Tarvin

Please pray for our...

Clergy: The Revd Adam Friend, The Revd Barbara King

Anglican Communion: Recife, Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

07 March 2023

Upton-by-Chester

Please pray for our...

Clergy: The Revd Paul Newman

For spiritual growth from the teaching of God's Word in our Sunday sermons and midweek Bible Study groups, and numerical growth from our community mission initiatives. We would also value wisdom for best use of our newly reordered church building.

Anglican Communion: Rejaf, The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

08 March 2023

Plas Newton

Please pray for our...

Clergy: The Revd Pete Rugen, The Revd Chris Jones

Lay Workers: Mrs Julie Ellison, Mrs Alison Linfield, Mr Alan Lowe, Mr Trevor Park

Please pray for the direction of Youth and Children's Ministry in the future

Anglican Communion: Remo, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

09 March 2023

Chester Christ Church

Please pray for our...

Clergy: Revd Anna Leyden, Revd Glyn Jones

Lay Workers: Ed Newman, Veronica Johnston

Opportunities to develop outreach in the community

Anglican Communion: Renk, The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

10 March 2023

Chester St Oswald & St Thomas of Canterbury

We are now in an interregnum and pray that the right candidate is found to fill the post, in the mean time prayers for the church wardens and PCC as they manage the period of interregnum would be very much appreciated.

Please pray for our...

Anglican Communion: Rhode Island, The Episcopal Church

11 March 2023

Chester St Peter

Please pray for our...

Clergy: Rev Jonathan Phillips, Rev Bob Toan, Rev John Brocklehurst

Please pray for us as we seek to fulfil our vision of seeing 'Chester transformed by God's love' through our worshipping Communities, our Outreach, our Relationships in the City and our Events for Unity! It is exciting to see God move in the city of Chester and we are hungry to see more! Hallelujah! Maranatha!

Anglican Communion: Rift Valley, The Anglican Church of Tanzania

12 March 2023

Casting the Net Wide

After two full days of engagement at Chester Cathedral (11/12 March) there's just one more Vision Cafe before we come to the end of our consultation process.

Casting the Net Wide has taken me across the length and breadth of the Diocese. From Stalybridge to Tarporley, sometimes in the same day, carrying a bizarre cargo of engagement tools including a pop-up fishing net, an inflatable elephant and LEGO Muppet figures.

It has been a privilege to facilitate and listen. We have held conversations in churches, schools and community venues of all shapes and sizes. I have been supported by prayers and surrounded by fellowship and hospitality.

We have collected thousands of comments, hopes, and dreams, online responses and conversation notes. Thank you for your enthusiasm and your honesty if you have taken time to be a part of it in anyway.

Please pray for our Bishops and leadership team as they come together over the coming weeks to distil and discern all the evidence down to some key themes.

Father God,

We thank you for your Church in this Diocese and the way that communities have responded in faith, with love and hope for the transformation of people and places where we have been called to serve.

We ask for your continued hand on this Visioning process as we remember that You have the plan. You have gone before us. It is Your vision that we seek to discern.

Send your Holy Spirit to give us the wisdom to recognise your voice and hearts to follow where you lead.

Director of Development (Vision and Strategy): Harriet Roberts

Please pray for our...

Anglican Communion: The Church of South India (United),

13 March 2023

St. Barnabas Bredbury

Please pray for our...

Lay Workers: Mrs Daryl Beaumont

Our newly appointed incumbent Revd. Martin Makin in post from May 2023 Our outreach work to the local community and especially to families and children

Anglican Communion: Rio de Janeiro, Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

14 March 2023

Bredbury St Mark

Please pray for our...

Clergy: Andy Bull, Martin Makin

Lay Workers: Ruth Bull

Pray for those who have come to faith in recent times and will be getting baptised/confirmed in April. Pray for our children and youth ministry to flourish and that our compassionate ministries (Foodbank, CAP Life Skills, Communi-Tea, etc) would introduce people to Jesus.

Anglican Communion: Rio Grande, The Episcopal Church

15 March 2023

Romiley

Please pray for our...

Clergy: Richard Pennystan

Lay Workers: Alan Bancroft, Audrey Murch

Please pray for wisdom for the leadership team as they make new staff appointments and consider structural changes, following a time of change for the church.

Anglican Communion: Riverina, The Anglican Church of Australia

16 March 2023

Disley

Please pray for our...

Clergy: Stuart Cornes

Lay Workers: Jenny Kidd, Wendy Luxon, Rob Stoba

Please pray for the mission of the church to the community as we approach Easter. Pray particularly for Experience Easter, as it welcomes students and staff from a local special school.

Anglican Communion: Rochester (in the United Kingdom), The Church of England

17 March 2023

High Lane

Please pray for our...

Clergy: Hannah Hupfield, Ashleigh Askwith

Lay Workers: John Wilson, Tony Berry

Please pray for the community in High Lane and the groups who meet here throughout the week. Pray too for our fundraising and eco work as we seek to repair our building and increase its accessibility.

Anglican Communion: Rochester (in the United States), The Episcopal Church

18 March 2023

Low Marple

Please pray for our...

Clergy: Revd Timothy Hupfield, Revd Ashleigh Askwith

Lay Workers: Tony Doust, Debbie Moores

Please pray for our explorations of new projects to reach out into the community. Give thanks for our growing children's ministry, and for opportunities for new collaboration with other local churches.

Anglican Communion: Rockhampton, The Anglican Church of Australia

19 March 2023

Mothering Sunday

"Now even GOD could be going gender neutral" shouted the tabloid press earlier this year. These headlines followed a question posed at General Synod about gendered images of God in Church of England liturgy. Despite the surprise of the newspapers, there is a precedent in Scripture and tradition for imagining God in the image of women. In short: this is not news!

Today, on Mothering Sunday, we are invited to give thanks not only for the significant caregivers in our lives, but for the nurture and care of God. For some, this is care experienced by the "mother church": historically the church in which one was baptised and named.

Nurturing and compassionate images of God are woven through the Bible, often using feminine imagery to explore this aspect of the character of God. Deuteronomy 32 invites us to imagine God as a mother eagle, hovering over her nest. The prophet Hosea speaks of God as one who lifts infants, who bends down to feed them, and who protects her people as fiercely as a mother bear protects her cubs. Isaiah at several points uses the comfort, nourishment and life given by a mother to her child as a metaphor for the nurture of God for God's people. In the New Testament, Jesus mourns for the city of Jerusalem and the brokenness of its people, describing his love for them as a mother hen tenderly gathering her chicks under her wings.

For some, these motherly images of God are profoundly helpful to their spiritual life. For others, they are a barrier. Much depends on our early experiences of care and nurture. As with all metaphors, particularly those which speak of the complexity of God's grace meeting the pain of human experience, no image is complete alone.

It is as we draw images of God together that we see glimpses of God's fullness. Seven centuries ago the mystic Julian of Norwich wrote: "Just as God is our father, so God is also our mother". This Mothering Sunday may we deepen our knowledge of the fullness of God as we imagine the love, tenderness and compassion of God through these female images.

Interim IME 2 Officer and Director of Studies for Pastoral Workers: Revd Jenny Bridgman

Please pray for our...

Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Southern Africa,

20 March 2023

Marple

Please pray for our...

Clergy: Jeb Beatty, Jane Crook, Daniel Currie, Lesley Currie

Lay Workers: Martin Palmer, Keith Frost

Anglican Communion: Rokon, The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

21 March 2023

Compstall (or Werneth)

Please pray for our...

Clergy: Wendy Atkinson

Anglican Communion: Rorya, The Anglican Church of Tanzania

22 March 2023

Whaley Bridge

Please pray for our...

Clergy: Frances Eccleston

Lay Workers: Beryl Axcell, Stephen Eccleston

Anglican Communion: Ruaha, The Anglican Church of Tanzania

23 March 2023

Mellor

Please pray for our...

Lay Workers: David Shercliff

Anglican Communion: Ziwa (Lake) Rukwa, The Anglican Church of Tanzania

24 March 2023

Alvanley and Manley

Please pray for our...

Clergy: Ron Iveson

Anglican Communion: Rumbek, The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

25 March 2023

Dunham-on-the-Hill

Please pray for our...

Anglican Communion: Rumonge, The Anglican Church of Burundi

26 March 2023

Environmental Worries

According to several recent surveys, anywhere between two-thirds to three-quarters of us are suffering from a condition commonly referred to as "eco-anxiety", broadly defined as "a chronic fear of environmental doom". Some of us may instantly relate to this, some may be unaware that concerns about climate change and the like are actually having a deep impact on our mental health, and others may just dismiss it out of hand as yet more alarmist wokery!

And yet, however we feel about such headlines, as Christians it is hard to argue that we should not be seriously worried about the state of our planet and the role that we have all played in contributing to environmental disaster.

In recent years, it has become increasingly evident that each of us need to carefully examine the choices we make as global consumers if we are to be true to Jesus's central command to love God with all our heart, soul & mind and to love our neighbour as ourselves. It is not enough to be simply satisfied with the promise that all will be made good when Jesus returns. We are each called to love God and follow Jesus in the here and now.

Worrying about such things is right, not because our faith in God is weak, but because establishing God's Kingdom cannot exclude a deep care for what God has created, nor a concern for those brothers and sisters around the world who are being directly affected by our actions.

Yet, this does not necessarily mean that we should be resigned to feeling constantly anxious. Psychologists note that if we try to act with kindness in addressing the cause of our worry, then often our burden is lifted. And Jesus clearly taught that if we follow in his ways, sacrificing the self and prioritising others, then peace will follow.

May we each consider how we might worry more about our impact on the environment - in our homes, our churches and our communities - and how we might learn to act in ways that honour both the holiness of creation and the dignity of our neighbours, as we serve to grow God's Kingdom here on Earth.

Rev Mike Loach, Vicar at Christ Church

Please pray for our...

Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of South America,

27 March 2023

Frodsham

Please pray for our...

Clergy: Elaine Atack

Lay Workers: Andrew Rudd

Please could you include prayer for: Our outreach to young families and children, Our move towards being Eco Friendly, Our vision for our church building, Our "relaunch" of the Parish Hall

Anglican Communion: Rupert's Land, The Anglican Church of Canada

28 March 2023

Grange

Please pray for our...

Clergy: The Revd Emma Speake

Lay Workers: Ian Abram

We'd love you to pray for our families work, and work with schools. For developing new ministry and for our small but growing church. Please pray for energy and vision for Rev'd Emma, our Vicar, for her to find and model a good life balance and for good physical and mental wellbeing. Also, and most importantly, please pray for each person at Grange in their own vocation and ministry.'

Anglican Communion: Rutana, The Anglican Church of Burundi

29 March 2023

Hallwood Ecumenical Parish

Please pray for our...

Lay Workers: Barbara Brighton, Penny Hennessey, Ann-Marie Jones, Elizabeth Stokes, Alan Ventham, Lynne Percival, Colin Roberts.

Unity and discernment during the vacancy as we worship/ grow together and seek a new vicar.

Increased opportunities to share God's love though the foodbank, warm welcome space/ coffee morning, work with babies/toddlers and in schools, and other activities.

Our involvement in a major housing association regeneration project which includes a new church and community building.

Anglican Communion: Ruvuma, The Anglican Church of Tanzania

30 March 2023

Halton

Please pray for our...

Clergy: Tony Mitchell

Lay Workers: Allan McGuire BEM

That all the roles and functions of the parish transition to vacancy mode smoothly. That the creation of the Parish Profile and person specification happens smoothly. As the parish enters a vacancy, that the key people: Allan McGuire, Paul Quick, Sharon Taylor have the energy and vision needed, and those who support the ministry during the vacancy, especially Trevor Park (Reader from St Michael's, Chester) and others. For Tony, that he may finish his ministry in Halton Parish to God's glory and that all the handover and moving out of the vicarage goes smoothly.

Anglican Communion: Ruwenzori, The Church of the Province of Uganda

31 March 2023

Helsby

Please pray for our...

Our prayer at the moment is for a positive future with a new Incumbent on the horizon. Our numbers have declined greatly since COVID particularly families at the Family Service. We pray for their return. We give thanks for the work of the Wardens and PCC members during the Interegnum. Please also pray for our toilet project had to be shelved during COVID due to money, we have not been able to resurrect that project, A much need facility at St Pauls.

Anglican Communion: East Ruwenzori, The Church of the Province of Uganda