

## Diocese of Chester Cycle of Prayer Sunday 17 October to Saturday, 27 November 2021

---

Sunday, 17 October 2021

Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

*Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.* – Psalm 90.12

This verse comes from a psalm that speaks of the fragility of human life and how brief it is compared to the everlasting God – and over the past 2 years, many of us have had to face again the fact that our lives are more fragile, vulnerable and precious than we often like to admit.

I often wonder, too, if for the original hearers of this psalm, that phrase about numbering our days would have rung bells with the numbering of days that marked out the sabbath. The numbering of days in the week that marked out one day as a particular time to pause, to rest, and to remember the God who has made us and holds us and all creation. For many of us, Sunday will be another work day, but the principle remains – do we gain wisdom by marking out our time with pauses to remember that life and time are a gift? A moment to pause and give thanks to the Christ who has gone before us in all the changing scenes of life and death – and to pray, as this psalm does at the end,

*Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and prosper for us the work of our hands—  
O prosper the work of our hands!*

Simon Chesters, Director of Ministry

*The Church in the Province of the West Indies*

---

Monday, 18 October 2021

St Luke

### **0606 Little Budworth**

C: Paul Dawson, John Stopford, Jane Millinchip. LM: Pauline Hayward.

*Goma, Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo*

---

Tuesday, 19 October 2021

**0607 Lostock Gralam**

C: Andrew Ridley. LM: Roger Kenrick, Joyce Kenrick, Graham Sheen.  
Lostock Gralam CofE School.

*Gombe, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

---

Wednesday, 20 October 2021

**0608 Middlewich**

C: Simon Drew, Alison Boulton, Lorraine Reed, Thia Hughes, Liz Woode. LM: Julie Hassall, Jacqui Briscoe, Duncan Goodwin, Anne Latham, Steve Broadfoot, Christine Hamill-Stewart, Tony Woode, Sue Ikin, Elaine Reynolds.

*Grafton, The Anglican Church of Australia*

---

Thursday, 21 October 2021

**0609 Moulton**

C: Mark Green. LM: Grant Davis.

*Grahamstown, The Anglican Church of Southern Africa*

---

Friday, 22 October 2021

**0610 Holy Trinity, Northwich**

C: Carol Seddon. LM: Phil Baker, Rob Shepherd.

*Guadalcanal, The Anglican Church of Melanesia*

---

Saturday, 23 October 2021

**0611 St Luke, Northwich**

C: Vacant. LM: Malcolm Evans, Sue Renshaw, Jim Crawshaw, Kenneth Smythe.

*Guatemala, Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America*

---

Sunday, 24 October 2021  
The Last Sunday after Trinity

### **Bible Sunday**

Today is Bible Sunday. I wonder what reading the Bible does for you? In Psalm 119 v. 81 we are told an interesting thing that it can do. "My soul faints with longing for your salvation, but I have put my hope in your word." The Bible can stir up a longing in people. It shows us Jesus Christ - one Christian writer says that we approach the Bible as people approach a child's crib, in order to see the person it holds. And as we see him we begin to taste something of what God does to restore people and the whole world to himself and to their rightful, peaceful pattern. This taste causes us to long for more - for ourselves and our world to be wholly fixed. "My soul faints with longing for your salvation". Maybe you recognize this feeling in yourself. But how are we kept going in this state of dissatisfaction? The second phrase tells us: "I have put my hope in you word." We hear, and so can trust, God's promise to finish what he has begun. Perhaps today you might pray that as you read the Bible God would do this work in you - giving you a taste of God's salvation and keeping you going as you long for it more and more.

Peter Froggatt, Director of Outreach

*The Extra-Provincial Churches*

---

Monday, 25 October 2021

### **0612 Over St Chad**

C: Vacant. LM: Johanna Whittall.  
Winsford St Chad's CofE School.

*Guildford, The Church of England*

---

Tuesday, 26 October 2021

### **0613 Over St John**

C: George Crowder.  
Over St John's CofE School.

*Guinea, The Church of the Province of West Africa*

---

Wednesday, 27 October 2021

**0614 Sandiway**

C: Ruth Mock. LM: Hilary Chambers, Sue Hadden, Andrew Hardy, Paul Stevenson, Marian Harris, Nicola Boot.

*Gujarat, The (united) Church of North India*

---

Thursday, 28 October 2021

**Ss Simon and Jude**

**0615 Weaverham**

C: Paul Withington, Phil Bishop. LM: Mike Sanders, Jules Sanders, Linda Jones, Gilly Latham, Caroline Bishop.

*Central Gulf Coast, The Episcopal Church, USA*

---

Friday, 29 October 2021

**0616 Wharton**

C: Tim Hanson. LM: Irene Greenhough.  
Wharton CofE School.

*Gusau, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

---

Saturday, 30 October 2021

**0617 Whitegate**

C: Paul Dawson, John Stopford, Jane Millinchip. LM: Pauline Hayward.  
Whitegate CofE School.

*Guyana, The Church in the Province of the West Indies*

---

Sunday, 31 October 2021

Fourth Sunday before Advent

In preparation for today, I recently found myself idly humming “For all the Saints”. And then wincing. For a moment I found myself transported 17 months back, to nightly broadcasts of statistics around Covid-related deaths. Numbers we quickly became hardened to, yet each one a unique person; created, known and loved by God. All the saints: The many, many faithful (and not so faithful!) who came to rest through the trauma of a pandemic.

The season of All Souls and All Saints will take on particular poignancy this year and the years ahead. For the thousands who were unable to gather in the fullness of community to mourn, opportunities to remember and give thanks with memorial services and other rituals will be an important way for local churches to reach out to their communities with God’s love. The gift of time, space and permission to gather again, to lament, to cry, to grieve, is not to be underestimated.

Today we sing of the “yet more glorious day”; when the dead shall rise and be gathered up into the glory of God who holds us in love. As we sing in anticipation and hope, may we also take a moment to notice the depth of loss we have lived through, and to renew ourselves for the onward journey: together in grief and hope.

Jenny Bridgman, Interim IME 2 Officer; Director of Studies for Pastoral Workers

*The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria*

---

Monday, 1 November 2021

All Saints' Day

**0618 St Helen, Northwich**

C: Andrew Ridley. LM: David Drinkwater, Berenice Kirwan.

Witton Church Walk CofE School.

*Gwagwalada, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

---

Tuesday, 2 November 2021

**Macclesfield Deanery**

*Haiti, The Episcopal Church, USA*

---

Wednesday, 3 November 2021

**1502 Bollington**

C: Nancy Goodrick. LM: Anne Coomes, Brian Reader.

Bollington St John's CofE School.

Bollington Cross C of E School.

*Hanuato'o, The Anglican Church of Melanesia*

---

Thursday, 4 November 2021

**1503 Bosley**

C: John Harries, Steph Morris, Anna Cerval-Pena. LM: Judith Harries.

Bosley St Mary's CofE School.

*Harare, The Church of the Province of Central Africa*

---

Friday, 5 November 2021

**1505 Gawsworth**

C: Colin Wilson. LM: Keith Parrott.

*Hawaii, The Episcopal Church, USA*

---

Saturday, 6 November 2021

**1506 Henbury and Broken Cross**

C: Vacant. LM: Linda Craig.

*Saint Helena, The Anglican Church of Southern Africa*

---

Sunday, 7 November 2021  
Third Sunday before Advent

**25** Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

**36** There was also a prophet, Anna[ the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,<sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.<sup>38</sup> At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child[ to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Luke 2.25, 36-38

That's pretty early to see a Christmas reading, you might think. And it is – though now that All Saints (or Halloween in the wider culture) and Bonfire Night have come and gone, and even though Remembrance is yet to come, it's entirely possible that somebody near you already has their Christmas decorations or lights up. People will already be looking forward to it, and wondering if, like last year, it will be very different from years before. To use a phrase often used of the Kingdom of God, it is both now and not yet. And in a season of people often impatiently waiting for Christmas to stop being “not yet” and calling it “now” long before we even get to Advent, this reading always reminds me of the importance of faithful waiting and looking forward in hope. As well as great models of a discipleship that remains faithful well into what at the time would have been a very old age, Simeon and Anna are examples of people who keep the faith - prayerfully looking forward to what God will do and telling of the child who brings consolation and redemption. As so many look back to the strangeness and worry of last year and wonder what is to come, may we be people of hope and faith, looking forward to and praying for the future God will bring.

Simon Chesters, Director of Ministry

*The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia*

---

Monday, 8 November 2021

**1507 Hurdfield**

C: James Gibson, Jonny Frost. LM: Hellen Watson, John Owens.

*Hereford, The Church of England*

---

Tuesday, 9 November 2021

**1508 Macclesfield St Michael & All Angels (Macclesfield Team Ministry)**

C: Martin Stephens, Andy Williams, Alison Marshall. LM: Lynne Spedding, Mike Strutt, Catherine Stephens, Peter Marshall.  
Macclesfield Christ the King RC/CofE School.

*Southern Highlands, The Anglican Church of Tanzania*

---

Wednesday, 10 November 2021

**1509 Macclesfield St John**

C: Vacant.  
Macclesfield St John the Evangelist CofE School.

*Highveld, The Anglican Church of Southern Africa*

---

Thursday, 11 November 2021

**1510 Macclesfield St Paul**

C: Vacant.

*Eastern Himalayas, The (united) Church of North India*

---

Friday, 12 November 2021

**1512 North Rode**

C: Colin Wilson.

*Ho, The Church of the Province of West Africa*

---

Saturday, 13 November 2021

**1513 Pott Shrigley**

C: David Swales. LM: John Ryley.  
Pott Shrigley Church School.

*Hokkaido, The Nippon Sei Ko Kai*

---



Sunday, 14 November 2021  
Second Sunday before Advent

### **Remembrance Sunday**

You may remember the cascade of 888,246 ceramic poppies that were installed through the Tower of London in 2014, one poppy for each of the British or colonial soldiers who died in the First World War. Together they made a vivid and hugely moving display, a wave of loss and pain. Then they were dispersed: some of you may have one at home, and know that your poppy stands for a single person - a life lost, a family broken.

On Remembrance Sunday we think of both the one and the many. In many churches names will be read out, each name a person: known, loved, mourned and now remembered, though we may know little about them. And at the same time we think of the mass of people lost through war, across the world and across the centuries. We hold these two in tension, the one and the many, and we know that the God we worship and pray to does the same. He sees and holds the great aggregated weight of pain and loss, and can work to bring an end to cruelty and injustice. Yet he is near to each of us in our personal loss. And so we pray today to the God of justice and of comfort. 'The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit' Psalm 34:18.

Peter Froggatt, Director of Outreach

*The Anglican Church of Australia*

---

Monday, 15 November 2021

### **1514 Prestbury**

C: Patrick Angier, Steve Murphy. LM: Keith Ravenscroft, Anne Stirling.  
Prestbury CofE School.

*Honduras, The Episcopal Church, USA*

---

Tuesday, 16 November 2021

### **1515 Rainow with Saltersford and Forest**

C: Simon Gowler. LM: Jennifer Kendal.

*Hong Kong Island, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui*

---

Wednesday, 17 November 2021

**1517 Sutton St James**

C: John Harries, Steph Morris, Anna Cerval-Pena. LM: Judith Harries.

*Hpa-an, The Church of the Province of Myanmar*

---

Thursday, 18 November 2021

**1518 Upton Priory**

C: Vacant, Avril Ravenscroft.

*Huron, The Anglican Church of Canada*

---

Friday, 19 November 2021

**1519 Wildboarclough**

C: John Harries, Steph Morris, Anna Cerval-Pena. LM: Judith Harries.

*Hyderabad, The (united) Church of Pakistan*

---

Saturday, 20 November 2021

**1520 Wincle**

C: John Harries, Steph Morris, Anna Cerval-Pena. LM: Judith Harries.

Wincle CofE School.

*Ibadan, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

---

Sunday, 21 November 2021

## Christ the King

What image comes into your mind when you see the word 'king'? I wonder. For some it might be the Lion King, for others a local politician, for others their teams greatest ever player. Or perhaps, watching members of the royal family comment on our environmental crisis, we look to our national future.

When Jesus comes before Pilate, their discussion seems to centre around the nature of kingship. In a conversation between a prisoner and a Roman governor, they seem to reflect on which might be a king. It seems ridiculous. At a time where personality, celebrity and popularity seem to matter more than truth, Jesus' unequivocal answer seems even stranger: "for this I was born, for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth." This is a very different kind of kingship. Jesus clarifies the difference in what he says to Pilate: 'if we had the same kinds of kingdom, we would just fight it out', he seems to say. "But ... my kingdom is not from here."

Jesus' kingdom is unequivocally about truth. We cannot ignore his claims, and we cannot claim to speak truth if Jesus has not clearly said it.

Liz Shercliff, Director of Studies for Readers

*The Church of Bangladesh*

---

Monday, 22 November 2021

### **1521 Macclesfield St Peter (Part of Team)**

C: Martin Stephens, Andy Williams, Alison Marshall. LM: Judith Gibson, Catherine Stephens, Peter Marshall.

*Ibadan North, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

---

Tuesday, 23 November 2021

### **1522 Macclesfield All Saints (Part of Team)**

C: Martin Stephens, Andy Williams. LM: Chris Gleaves, Liz Varney.

*Ibadan South, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

---

Wednesday, 24 November 2021

**1523 Macclesfield St Barnabas (Part of Team)**

C: Martin Stephens, Andy Williams. LM: Glenys Hibbert, Fran Hiles.

*Ibba, The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan*

---

Thursday, 25 November 2021

**Macclesfield Bollinbrook CofE School**

*Idah, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

---

Friday, 26 November 2021

**Wallasey Deanery**

*Idaho, The Episcopal Church, USA*

---

Saturday, 27 November 2021

**0702 Leasowe**

C: Derek Marshall. LM: Diana Jones.

Leasowe The Holy Spirit RC/CofE School.

*Ideato, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)*

---