

Diocese of Chester Cycle of Prayer
Sunday, 12 September to Saturday, 9 October 2021

Sunday, 12 September 2021
Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

One of my favourite television programmes is Who Do You Think You Are? Celebrities trace their family tree uncovering all sorts of information about their ancestors and their background.

Who do the people say I am? Jesus asks his disciples. John the Baptist, Elijah, a prophet they reply. Who do you say I am? Jesus asks. The messiah Peter replies. But this messiah is not the great military leader that the people may be expecting. Jesus will suffer. He will be rejected by the chief priests and teachers. The idea of a messiah being rejected and dying on a cross is shocking and is too much for Peter, who objects. I love Peter; he opens mouth before brain engages. Sharing the Messiah's glory is also sharing his humiliation and rejection. Following Jesus means giving up everything, and it may cost everything. For the disciples it meant violence and death. For us is it being ridiculed for our belief? Is it loving and caring for someone we would cross over the road to avoid? It is flying in the face of the world's values as we hold true to Christ's values?

A friend gave me a prayer card showing a small person fighting to hold up a large umbrella in the midst of a gale. The caption read "Jesus never said it was going to be easy". Jesus was sort of saying that to the disciples, following him is not easy. Who do you think I am? he asked of them. Who do you think you are? he demands of them. Are you prepared to follow my teaching despite what the world may hurl at you? Who do we think he is? Who do we think we are? Are we prepared to follow him despite what the world may say?

Revd Beverley Jameson, Rector St Mary the Virgin Lymm, Chaplain to the Royal British Legion Lymm and District Branch

The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Monday, 13 September 2021

0520 Waverton

C: Julian Beauchamp. LM: June Hargreaves, C: Kath Wentel.

Europe, The Episcopal Church, USA

Tuesday, 14 September 2021

Holy Cross Day

0522 Whitewell

C: Karen Andrews. LM: Carolyn Wort.

Europe, The Church of England

Wednesday, 15 September 2021

Knutsford Deanery

Evo, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Thursday, 16 September 2021

1401 Alderley

C: Jon Hale.

Exeter, The Church of England

Friday, 17 September 2021

1402 Chelford

C: Fiona Robinson.

Chelford CofE School.

Ezo, The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

Saturday, 18 September 2021

1403 Alderley Edge

C: Robin Pye, Loveday Alexander. LM: Sue Mills, Rachel Roberts.

Faisalabad, The (united) Church of Pakistan

Sunday, 19 September 2021
Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Combatting Global Warming

COP26 is the next (and 26th) annual UN climate change conference. COP stands for “Conference of the Parties”, and the summit will be attended by the nearly 200 countries that signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – a treaty that came into force in 1994.

This year COP is being held in the UK, in Glasgow from 1 to 12 November (a year late because of COVID). It will be the biggest summit the UK has ever hosted, with around 30,000 attendees expected if it goes ahead as a fully physical event.

Behind the scenes, there is involvement of Italy in the organizing of this conference, and the Pope is expected to contribute an important Christian perspective.

The main thrust is for environmental scientists to engage in public with politicians with the intention of sharing the considerable and growing body of evidence on the environmental trends across the globe, and moving on to agree future targets.

Where can the Christian churches contribute? One obvious and vital area is for our support with prayer in a major way.

Our prayers are needed for:

- the scientific community as it deploys more measurements and seeks to make more accurate and more widely accepted predictions of the problem and its evolution in future years.
- the engineering community as it designs, builds and deploys courses of action with agreed environmental outcomes, covering realistic predictions of energy generation and usage.
- the political community as it seeks to build up responsible agreements to the consequences of our own actions.

And (here is the nub) to agree national goals that combine to reach international goals such that the effects of global warming are not only combatted, but also come under realistic control in agreed timescales.

As Christian people, we need to pray to our creator God not only with thanks that the COP26 community has been seeking and reaching agreement, but also for an ongoing spirit of international and global cooperation.

And we need to continue to pray for our world across all nations as together we face a future not just for our own generation but for generations to come.

Canon Dr David Blackmore, Reader Emeritus, Plas Newton

The Church of the Province of Uganda

Monday, 20 September 2021

1404 High Legh

C: Philip Robinson. Patricia Robinson, Trish Cope. LM: Christine Stanisstreet.

The Falkland Islands, Extra Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury

Tuesday, 21 September 2021

St Matthew

1405 Knutsford St Cross

C: Paul Deakin. LM: Allison Whiteley, Mary Daw.

We pray for the reawakening of the enthusiasm of our children as we restart Young Church this month and so build on the firm foundations laid in the first two years of this group prior to Covid 19 restrictions.

False Bay, The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Wednesday, 22 September 2021

1406 Knutsford St John the Baptist

C: Nigel Atkinson, Tom Hollingsbee, Mel Lacy, Helen Eccles. LM: Thain Flowers.

Fianarantsoa, The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean

Thursday, 23 September 2021

1407 Lindow

C: Simon Gales.

Florida, The Episcopal Church, USA

Friday, 24 September 2021

1408 Lower Peover

C: Murray Aldridge-Collins. LM: Ann Barlow.

Lower Peover CofE School.

Central Florida, The Episcopal Church, USA

Saturday, 25 September 2021

1409 Marthall

C: Fiona Robinson.

Southeast Florida, The Episcopal Church, USA

Sunday, 26 September 2021

Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

The Corrymeela Community

During recent months I have benefitted from the prayers of the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland.

I found them by accident on Facebook. The website for the Community tells us:

Corrymeela was begun in 1965 by Ray Davey, a former chaplain in World War II, and a group of students from Queens University. During the war, Ray was captured and incarcerated in a prisoner of war camp in Dresden and there bore witness to the bombing of that city. This experience profoundly changed him. He returned to work as a chaplain in Belfast and became concerned at the tensions brewing between people of different political, religious and ideological differences in Northern Ireland. Corrymeela grew out of this concern. It began before "The Troubles and continues on after "The Troubles," promoting tolerance between people of differing backgrounds and beliefs".

The community has been working for peace and reconciliation ever since.

Their "strapline" would do well for us all as we respond to Christ's call to love one another and to work together for the benefit of God's kingdom. It says:

"Corrymeela believes that people can learn to live and work well together". They add "We try to restore belief in a society where people feel connected and live together well."

Their prayers reflect their ecumenical theology and are down to earth and "real", often acknowledging that we may not always feel connected or up to working together with those God has sent us.

This prayer from September 2020 spoke to me:

God of changing winds,/God of steadying hands:

Be with us on the days when we find ourselves in doubt,

So that we can be for others when they need some reassurance,

Give us extra strength when we are feeling weak, so we can lend a little muscle to those who need support.

Grant us a double portion of your grace so that when we are lacking enough for ourselves, we can still extend the peace that comes from resting in your steadfast love.

Amen.

Julie Withers, Reader, St Peter's Hale

The Episcopal Church

Monday, 27 September 2021

1410 Mobberley

C: Ian Blay. LM: John Grainger, Jean Underhill.

Heavenly Father, we ask your blessing on our new church centre in the heart of our village. May 'The Beacon' be a symbol of welcome, encouragement, fellowship, and hope, as we seek to serve your people in new and innovative ways. This we ask in the name of our Lord Jesus, the Light of the World. Amen.

Mobberley CofE School.

Southwest Florida, The Episcopal Church, USA

Tuesday, 28 September 2021

1411 Over Peover

C: Murray Aldridge-Collins.

Fond du Lac, The Episcopal Church, USA

Wednesday, 29 September 2021

St Michael and All Angels

1412 Over Tabley

C: Philip Robinson. Patricia Robinson, Trish Cope. LM: Christine Stanisstreet.

Fredericton, The Anglican Church of Canada

Thursday, 30 September 2021

1413 Rostherne with Bollington

C: Philip Robinson. Patricia Robinson, Trish Cope. LM: Christine Stanisstreet, Stewart Jackson.

Little Bollington CofE School.

Free State, The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Friday, 1 October 2021

1414 Toft

C: Nigel Atkinson, Tom Hollingsbee, Mel Lacy, Helen Eccles. LM: Thain Flowers.

Freetown, The Church of the Province of West Africa

Saturday, 2 October 2021

1415 Wilmslow

C: Caroline Throup, Jennie Prince. LM: Sally Mullock.

St Anne's Fulshaw CofE School.

Gahini, Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda

Sunday, 3 October 2021

Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Animal Welfare Sunday

The Sunday each year nearest to the Lesser Festival of St Francis of Assisi (4 October) has been designated by the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals as Animal Welfare Sunday.

At this time of celebration of creation as the glory of autumn unfolds around us and many churches will be keeping harvest festivals, it seems appropriate to pause and give thanks also for animals in creation. Whether this is for their beauty in creation, for the work animals do which enriches human lives or the invaluable companionship of pets there is much to be grateful to God for when we consider the abundance and diversity of animal life. But as well as giving thanks, it is also appropriate as we pause to consider animals to think about our responsibility to all nonhuman creatures. Genesis 1 indicates a special place for human beings in creation, and with this special place comes responsibility to care for all of creation including animals.

Striving to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain the life of the earth is the fifth mark of mission of the Anglican Church. Tragically a lack of responsible care for animals, expressed through exploitation, neglect or even downright cruelty can lead to terrible suffering of animals. What can we do? We can always start with prayer. As we think about animals today it is good to begin with prayers of thanksgiving for animals, then to move towards prayer for wisdom to know how best to care for animals in creation, then to pray for the resources to support all whose particular calling is to care for animals, and to pray also for boldness for all Christian people to move from prayer to action to challenge cruelty to animals in whatever form that might take. Amen.

Revd Canon Christine Broad, Rector of Woodchurch and Diocesan Dean of Women in Ministry.

The Church in Wales

Monday, 4 October 2021

1417 Birtles

C: Jon Hale.

Gambella, The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria

Tuesday, 5 October 2021

Middlewich Deanery

Gambia, The Church of the Province of West Africa

Wednesday, 6 October 2021

0601 Byley-cum-Lees

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

Pray for our rural community in the aftermath of the Covid19 restrictions. For the church, the village school and the wider village as they rebuild community life for the future. Please also pray for a good and successful harvest for our farmers.

Garissa, The Anglican Church of Kenya

Thursday, 7 October 2021

0603 Davenham

C: Rob Ineson.

Pray that we shine with enjoyment of our God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Pray for more than enough people to help so we have the energy and resources we need to reach the parish in our mission to make disciples. For our Sunday Services - formal 9:30am Service and 11am All Age - that both strengthen love for the Lord.

Davenham CofE School.

Gasabo, Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda

Friday, 8 October 2021

0604 Delamere

C: Angela Askwith.

Please pray for the starting of our Mums and Tots group, Bible lunches and our ongoing family tent worship in our tent. Most importantly for the faithful at Delamere who have not been able to return to church since the start of Covid due to ill health.

Delamere CofE School.

Gboko, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Saturday, 9 October 2021

0605 Hartford

C: Mike Smith, Dimitri Alldridge, George Agar, James Robson. LM: David Charlton, Jeremy Hunns.

Hartford CofE School.

George, The Anglican Church of Southern Africa
