One of my favourite books of all time is by an American author Henry van Dyke who was writing around the turn of the 19th to the 20th centuries. It’s a short book, called The Other Wise Man, which you could easily read in one sitting. It tells the tale of a forth and unknown wise man who sets out along with his three colleagues but they get separated and he gets lost along the way to Bethlehem. The forth wise man spends a lifetime searching for the Christ child arriving eventually in Jerusalem 33 years later where he finally finds Jesus hanging on the cross. It’s a profound and poignant tale about the significance of faith as a journey and it’s a vivid reminder that the stories we hear as we enter the season of Epiphany are inextricably bound up with the stories of Lent (where this edition of the prayer calendar takes us to) and beyond, to Holy Week and Easter.

As we begin another year with all the uncertainty that rages around us, and with continued worries about the pandemic, the economy and the changing nature of the church, it’s perhaps worth remembering that the same Christ child who drew kings and magi to his crib, is the one who invites us to follow him still today. We have no idea where the journey may take us, possibly to the foot of the cross. But regardless of the destination, the way we travel shapes and forms us. Along the way, we catch glimpse God’s presence in smaller and larger ways, and we are held by the everlasting arms of the one who goes before us.

May God bless each one of you during 2021 and beyond and may you know the love of God which surrounds and strengthens us for each step of the way.
WELCOME

Welcome to the new edition of the diocesan calendar of prayer, which takes us into the new year, through Epiphany and Lent to the beginning of Holy Week.

If you know of anyone else who would like to receive a paper copy of this publication, then please contact the Bishop’s Chaplain as below. It can also be downloaded from www.leicester.anglican.org/everydayfaith/calendarorprayer/

Every day we pray for Bishops and our brothers and sisters 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 day. You will also find one of our own partner dioceses featured every week. 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.

The key to the parish entries is as follows: C = Clergy; R = Reader; PA = Pastoral Assistant; Pio = Pioneer 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 Revd Rosie Woodall at bishops.chaplain@leicestercofe.org or phone 0116 270 3390 or send it c/o Bishop’s Lodge.

We are very grateful to Revd Canon Brian Davis for his work on gathering parish prayer requests.
This week we celebrate the Epiphany, when noble pilgrims from the East – the Magi – followed a guiding star to Bethlehem and paid homage to the infant Jesus.

The word ‘Magi’ appears in both the Old and New Testaments, but elsewhere it is translated usually as “magician” or “sorcerer”, in the sense of a fortuneteller (e.g. Acts 8, 13:61). The Magi in Matthew are likely to come from the Parthian Empire, and would probably have been members of the priestly class of Zoroastrianism, which had an international reputation for astrology (at the time seen as a science). In contrast to our tradition of three Magi, Eastern tradition (especially the Syriac church) has twelve.

As early as the third century, they were considered to be kings, probably as a fulfilment of the prophecies in Psalm 72: 11 ("May all kings fall down before him") and Isaiah 60: 16, which refers to “kings [coming] to the brightness of your dawn” bearing “gold and frankincense.” It was the King James Version which first translated the word to “wise men”.

In about the eighth century, their names first appear in a chronicle known as the ‘Excerpta latina barbari’, which we know today as Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. In some traditions, Caspar, who brings the gold, is older and is a king of India. Melchior is middle-aged and brings frankincense from Persia or Arabia. Balthasar is a young man with dark skin – he may originate in Ethiopia and brings myrrh from Saba (South Yemen).

Venerated as saints and martyrs, their supposed relics were transferred from Constantinople to Milan, and then to Cologne Cathedral in the twelfth century. The ‘Adoration of the Magi’ became one of the most popular themes in Christian art – the earliest remaining painting on the subject being the fresco in the Priscilla Catacomb of Rome, dating from the second century.

Please pray:
- that we may bring our many and varied gifts to Christ to use in his service
- for those meeting Christ for the first time today
- for those making long journeys while being unsure of their final destination

The Province of Alexandria

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**MON 4 JAN** Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

*Bishop Stanley Hotay*

Please pray for the retired pastors in DMK who have health issues and need much prayer support and help.

*Abakaliki (Nigeria)*

**TUES 5 JAN** Social Responsibility

We pray for our Social Responsibility Enabler, Alison Adams; for Christian Mottram and Sian Rigby; and for the work of the Social Responsibility Panel.

*Aberdeen and Orkney (Scotland): Bishop Anne Dyer*

**WED 6 JAN** Epiphany

We pray for those making any kind of journey of faith, and those for whom Christ is revealed for the first time.

*Abuja (Nigeria)*

**THURS 7 JAN** Leicester Cathedral

Please pray for those supporting the work of the Cathedral and Leicester Cathedral Revealed – for Gill Aird, Simon Bentley, Aabeda Choksi, Rebecca Hale, Mirjam Ngoy, Andrew Radford, Claire Recordon, and Lucy Wiles.

*Abyei (South Sudan)*

**FRI 8 JAN** Leicester Cathedral

Please pray for those who enable the events, operations and musical life of the Cathedral – for Beverley Collett, David Cowen, Tamsin Johnston, Les Mitchellmore, Chris Ouvry Johns, Carys Underdown and Rosie Vinter – and for the DioSing project with schools.

*Accra (Ghana)*

**SAT 9 JAN** Community of the Tree of Life

Please pray for the Novices, for the staff team – Rachel Bennett, Matt Long, Alan and Lesley Humphrey – and for the Community’s Companions.

*Adelaide (Australia)*
The Baptism of Christ, which we celebrate today, is one of the major feast days in this season of Epiphany. In contrast to the West, Eastern Christianity celebrates this on 6th January, when we focus on the visit of the Magi.

This event is described in all three Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). The Holy Spirit descends on Jesus immediately after his baptism by his cousin John the Baptist, accompanied by a voice from heaven. This moment affirms Jesus’ own identity and is the beginning of his ministry, sending him out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil for forty days and nights.

The location of the baptism is most commonly believed to be at AlMaghtas (meaning ‘baptism’ or ‘immersion’ in Arabic), on the eastern side of the River Jordan. This is borne out by the discovery of a very early place of worship here by UNESCO sponsored excavations. Historians as well as theologians believe the baptism of Jesus to be a historical event. In his work ‘Antiquities of the Jews’, the first century historian Josephus speaks of John the Baptist’s popularity among the crowds and his preaching of baptism.

Mark uses an unusual Greek word for the opening of the heavens, meaning “ripping” or “tearing”. By doing so, he forms a verbal thread with the rending of the Temple veil at the Crucifixion (Mark 15:38), tying together both the beginning and end of Jesus’ earthly ministry.

Baptism was not a new idea. There is evidence that a monastic group called the Essenes used baptism at their monastery at Qumran as a type of ritual cleansing.

Qumran was in the Jordan wilderness, near the area where John was probably preaching. But the concept of a baptism to symbolise repentance was a new one.

Please pray:
- for a rediscovery of what it means for us to say “I am baptised”
- for those preparing for baptism and confirmation in the coming months
- that we may know ourselves to be God’s beloved children

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia
The material for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (beginning tomorrow), has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme, “Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit”, is based on John 15:117 and expresses Grandchamp Community’s vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

Today the community has fifty sisters from different generations, Church traditions, and countries. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion. They remain faithful to a life of prayer, life in community and the welcoming of guests. The sisters share the grace of their monastic life with visitors and volunteers who go to Grandchamp for a time of retreat, silence, healing or in search of meaning.

For 2021, the sisters are giving Christians across the world the opportunity to engage with a form of prayer that is both very ancient and yet so apposite for our times. This rhythm of prayer, with its traditional structure, hymns, psalms, and perhaps most importantly silence, is an important gift from the ancient Church to the Church of today struggling with the pandemic and lockdowns, and more widely with other serious challenges that our world faces. This tradition of prayer and spirituality, despite the things that hurt and separate us, invites us into shared prayer and silence together – a most precious gift in troubled times.

We give thanks for:
• all that unites us in our common faith

We pray for:
• greater unity among Christians
• continuing ecumenical dialogue
• our working together with other local Christian communities in prayer, mission and service

The Anglican Church of Australia
This winter, **One Roof Leicester** has been unable to run their annual Winter Night Shelter for the homeless in the same way due to social distancing requirements. Instead, members of the public are asked to donate through the "Give Leicester" contactless donation terminals scattered throughout the city, which enable members of the public to make a £3 donation simply by tapping their card. The terminals are funded by BID Leicester and Leicester City Council in partnership with the Leicester Homelessness Charter, which is chaired by Revd Canon Alison Adams.

Money raised through the terminals is being used to provide a new form of Covid secure emergency accommodation for the homeless and vulnerably housed. There are fifteen donation points in the city placed in the windows of local businesses, eleven of which are in the city centre and four further afield. At the end of November 2020, Give Leicester had already raised £25,000 for the Winter Night Shelter, of which over £10,000 of the fundraising total had been donated by members of the public through the contactless terminals.

Salma Ravat, Manager of One Roof Leicester, explains: "The Coronavirus pandemic has brought new challenges in providing secure accommodation during the cold, winter months, and hosting many guests in a shared space is no longer practical. This winter we will be using a network of separate housing units to ensure a safe environment for each guest we welcome. We will continue to support our guests as we did in the night shelter – they will be visited by our volunteer team and key workers to ensure they have everything they need, including hot food and advice to enable them to move on to permanent accommodation where possible."

**Please pray:**
- for the work of One Roof Leicester and other agencies working with the vulnerable
- for those sleeping on our streets in the cold winter weather

We continue to pray too for all Christian churches in this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and for our working together on social action projects.

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**SUNDAY 24 JANUARY**

**EPHESIANS 3**

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**MON 25 JAN** Conversion of Paul

We pray for all those experiencing sudden moments of conversion, and those whose journey to Christ is slow.

_Akure (Nigeria)_

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**TUES 26 JAN** Diocese of Trichy

Bishop D Chandrasekaran

This week the people of Tamil Nadu have been celebrating their annual harvest. Please pray for all who have insufficient food to live healthy lives and for the Trichy Diocese’s work to distribute food.

_Alabama (USA)_

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**WED 27 JAN** St Denys, Evington

Anthony Lees-Smith, Nigel Rostock (C); Geraldine Moulden, Sian Rigby (R)

Give thanks for signs of new growth and openness to worshipping and praying in new ways. Please pray for our PCC as they discern where God is leading and face the pastoral and financial challenges of this time.

_Alaska (USA)_

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**THURS 28 JAN** St Philip’s Centre for Study & Engagement in a Multifaith Society

Tom Wilson & staff

We give thanks for Laura Johnson’s work supporting Christians in interfaith engagement and pray for God’s blessing on her as she moves on. Pray for wisdom and discernment as we encourage people to learn to live well together.

_St Albans: Bishop Alan Smith_

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**FRI 29 JAN** Humberstone and Thurnby Lodge

Paul Savage, Paul Emberton (C); Viv Froggatt (R)

Please pray for the newly formed Ascension Benefice, as we continue to learn to worship and work together and welcome new people into God’s Kingdom.

_Albany (USA)_

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**SAT 30 JAN** The Resurrection, Leicester

Paskal Clement, Sister Beverley CSF; Sister Christine CSF; Chrispal Anand (Reader in training)

_St Peter’s, Belgrave CE Primary School_

Please pray for our elderly and vulnerable members; for young families who struggle to take part in church activities due to lack of resources. Give thanks that our church members are safe from serious illness like COVID19.

_Algoma (Canada)_

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**The Church of Bangladesh**
The provision of good quality healthcare in our partner diocese of Kiteto in Tanzania is a huge challenge. About 1 in every 100 people in Africa are blind – a rate four times higher than that of the UK. Tragically, many of the conditions that lead to sight loss are preventable and cheap to treat. The Diocese of Kiteto has run an Eye Clinic in Kabaya, the centre of the diocese, for many years. The need has been becoming more urgent as existing staff approach retirement and more are needed to expand the work into mother and child care, and other primary care services in conjunction with the Tanzanian government.

A recent appeal here in Leicester to raise money to pay staff wages for one year (after which the government will fund them), for equipment, completing staff housing and transport for the clinic’s outreach work has exceeded its £7,500 target, thanks to the generosity of many.

The funding has enabled the recruitment of two more staff. On the left of the photo is Sister Neema Nyove who is an enrolled nurse, and on the right is Matilda Makoye who is a medical assistant. They will be supported by Sister Sara Mbelwa (centre), who has been working in the clinic since 2006.

Bishop Isaiah has said “Healing is God’s selfexpression of love and compassion whether it’s a miracle or medical: in the end it is God who heals. The diocesan dispensary has been a blessing to many people here, through the eye clinic providing medication in the region. Providing a more general medical service improved the diocese’s social concern. It shows we are serious as we participate in the practical love of God to all.”

Please pray for:
- the work of the clinic and especially for Sr Neema, MA Matilda and Sr Sara
- the diocese of Kiteto in its outreach
- the government and people of Tanzania, and for all in need

The Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil

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**MON 1 FEB** Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

*Bishop Stanley Hotay*

Thanks to God for the church planting initiative as the Diocese have now planted 400 churches. Pray for the pastors and congregations as the churches become more established and grow as well as for roofs for the buildings.

*All Saints Cathedral (Kenya)*

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**TUES 2 FEB** Presentation of Christ in the Temple/Candlemas

We give thanks for the gifts of prayer and perseverance older generations bring to the life of the Church, and pray for all those who will see Christ in someone today.

*Aluokluak (South Sudan)*

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**WED 3 FEB** St Peter’s Belgrave BMO

*Simon Stevens (Pio)*

As a pioneering church, both we and our school have found this year particularly challenging. We give thanks for increased contact online. We pray for new opportunities postCOVID and for the mental health of the school staff.

*Amazânia (Brazil)*

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**THURS 4 FEB** All Saints, Belgrave

*Sunny George (C); Riffat Zamurad (R); Anita Dukoon, Sham Kalsi (Evng)*

God of healing and wholeness, assist us in all that you are calling us to do. Enable us to be more passionate and compassionate in our ministry to the sick, poor and marginalised. Lead us to the places where need is the greatest.

*Amichi (Nigeria)*

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**FRI 5 FEB** St Theodore of Canterbury

*Susan Leighton (C)*

Give thanks for the large Hall windows that can be used for displays facing outwards (e.g. Remembrance, Nativity), and the links formed with the local primary school. Thanks and prayer for ongoing work for Operation Christmas Child despite lockdown.

*Amritsar (North India)*

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**SAT 6 FEB** Scraptoft & Netherhall

*Martin Court (C); Julie Harget (PA)*

We give thanks for returning to church and being able to share in the Eucharist once more. We pray for all those still confined to home but still with us in spirit.

*Andaman & Carr Nicobar Islands (North India)*
Next Saturday, the new Bishop of Wyoming, The Revd Canon Paul-Gordon Chandler, will be consecrated. He was elected last September as the tenth bishop of the diocese, succeeding Bishop John Smylie.

Paul-Gordon is an author, peacemaker, art curator and social entrepreneur. He grew up in Senegal, West Africa, and has lived and worked around the world in leadership roles within the Episcopal Church, faith-based publishing, the arts, and relief and development. In 2020, he was awarded by the Archbishop of Canterbury the Hubert Walter Award for Reconciliation and Interfaith Cooperation, the highest international award for outstanding service in the work of reconciliation and interfaith dialogue within the Anglican Communion.

As an Episcopal Mission Partner, he has most recently been based in Doha in Qatar, as Rector of The Anglican Church of Qatar, a spiritual home for more than 85 congregations with worshippers from 65 countries. An authority on the Abrahamic faith traditions, he is the Founding President of CARAVAN, an international peacebuilding nonprofit/NGO closely affiliated with the Episcopal Church that uses the arts to build sustainable global peace. He has previously ministered as Rector of St John’s Episcopal Church in Cairo (2003-13) and as Rector of St George’s Episcopal Church in Tunis. He also served as the President/CEO of an international ecumenical relief and development organization working with indigenous faith-based humanitarian ministries all over the world.

Paul-Gordon studied at Wheaton College in the USA, at Chichester Theological College in West Sussex, and at the Alliance Française in Paris. He is a Canon of All Saints’ Episcopal Cathedral in Cairo, and the author of four books in the fields of Global Christianity, Christian-Muslim relations and the Middle East. He is married to Lynne E. Chandler, a musician and author, and they have two adult married children.

Please pray for:
• Bishop Paul-Gordon and his family
• the people and worshipping communities of the diocese of Wyoming
• a strengthening of our partnership in the gospel

The Anglican Church of Burundi
St Valentine was a widely recognized third century Roman saint, whose feast day is commemorated in Christianity on 14th February. This celebration was first established in AD496 by Pope Gelasius I, who included Valentine among all those "... whose names are justly reverenced among men, but whose acts are known only to God." The name "Valentine" derived from volens (worthy, strong, powerful), was popular in Late Antiquity. This creates the problem that it’s not clear whether there are multiple different saints with the same name, or one saint whose history has become confused and conflated over time.

Valentine appears to have been a priest or bishop who was martyred for his faith in Rome. Some accounts have him as arrested for aiding Christians in Rome who were at the time being persecuted by the Emperor Claudius, including marrying Christian couples, thus preventing the husbands being conscripted into the army.

After his death, Valentine’s relics were scattered across Europe, including to Whitefriar Street Carmelite Church in Dublin where they remain to this day. This continues to be a popular site of pilgrimage, especially for those seeking love on St Valentine’s Day.

Some of the more fanciful legends have St Valentine writing a note the night before his execution to his judge’s daughter (whose blindness he had healed) signed "From your Valentine", which is said to have inspired today’s greeting card industry. Another version includes that to remind the new husbands of their vows and God’s love, Valentine is said to have given hearts cut from parchment to the persecuted Christians, a possible origin of the widespread use of hearts on St. Valentine’s Day. For these reasons, since the High Middle Ages, Valentine’s saint’s day has been associated with the tradition of courtly love.

Please pray for
- those preparing to be married in the coming months
- those struggling with relationship breakdown
- the lonely and isolated
- those who feel unloved

The Anglican Church of Canada

Bishop Isaiah Chambala
Pray for the growing church amongst the Masaai in the diocese, for the new pastors and deacons, their families and their training and growth in the Gospel. Pray for wisdom for Bishop Isaiah and his team as they oversee this work of God.
South Ankole (Uganda)

In vacancy, Liz Smith (PA)
Pray for those few running the parish and our search for a new Vicar. Give thanks for continuing contact with our schools and care homes. Remember our food bank, its volunteers, supporters and users.
West Ankole (Uganda)

Pray for a deepening of our discipleship as we journey with Christ through the wilderness of Lent.
Antananarivo (Indian Ocean)

Simon Lumby (C)
We give thanks to God that we have been able to continue our worship during the pandemic and pray that we might find ways to show his love to all in the parish in these challenging times.
Antsiranana (Indian Ocean)

Tony Leighton (Master)
As building work continues (helping us provide housing and care for the elderly in need) we are pleased that a number of people have made enquiries and applications. Please pray for us as we allocate the new flats and bungalows.
Araucanía (Chile)

Liz Wilson (C); Margaret Gillespie (R-PTO)
Thanks for our Ministry Team and Pastoral Teams who have cared for us during the pandemic. We pray for a renewed relationship with each other, schools, care homes and our wider community as we have deeply missed this outward looking ministry.
Arctic (Canada)
Churches around the UK are invited to join in prayer, giving and action today on Poverty Sunday. You can sign up for free resources to reflect and pray for change on the Church Action on Poverty website https://www.churchpoverty.org.uk/sunday/

This last year has been tough with lives and livelihoods upside down, assumptions challenged and vulnerabilities exposed. For many the future will never be anything like the same. For those already living precariously and with uncertainty, the effect is huge. The inequalities within our society have been laid bare. We cannot pretend we are unaware: key workers on minimal wages, workers not daring not to show up, even if isolating, for fear of loss of job, child hunger, fuel poverty… the list is immense.

Many people find themselves now in financial difficulties for the first time. They’ve never before claimed benefits or visited a food bank. They fear the loss of their home. Others hold several precarious jobs to make ends meet. The range of people for whom financial poverty is very real has expanded significantly – each one an anguished human story, as incomes, including benefits, just don’t match even necessary expenditure. And when you slip into debt, the obstacles to recovery are significant – the term ‘financial exclusion’ is often used for people who find they cannot access what others take for granted. But people experiencing poverty are not different from the rest of the population: they are on our street, in our Churches and workplaces.

These voices need hearing. We have a chance to build things differently, both systemically and locally.

So, on Poverty Sunday let us pledge our energies and pray for:

- a strengthening of the values which have emerged strongly through the pandemic – mutuality, compassion and community
- people in financial hardship and despair, and the organizations supporting them
- local initiatives seeking to mitigate the effects of financial exclusion by, for example, enabling digital access, budgeting advice, help in navigating systems
- Clockwise and other credit unions providing safe advice, loans and facilities especially helpful to the financially vulnerable

The Church of the Province of Central Africa

Bishop D Chandrasekaran

Pray for the Church of South India’s work through its hospitals and nursing colleges, particularly for the work in Dharapuram in the Trichy Diocese.

Argentina (South America)

Mark Battison (C); Margaret Gillespie (R-PTO)

Give thanks for the two generous grants that are helping towards repairs to our ancient church. Please pray for those carrying out the work and for our continued witness during this period.

Northern Argentina (South America)

Karen Rooms (C)

Give thanks with us for all God is up to in individuals and our community: baptisms, vocations, the democratisation of church through Zoom, safe space for people yearning for sanctuary. Pray for the deepening of our charism: ancient building, inclusive community, living faith.

Argyll & The Isles (Scotland): in vacancy

Johannes Arens, Herbert Fadriquela (C); Donald Sherriff (R)

We try to minister to each other and to others during lockdown, particularly to students feeling isolated and lonely. Pray for those who have missed the sacraments.

Arizona (USA)

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

We give thanks for the wonderful faithful witness of our parish; for generosity, love, practical help given one to another. We pray that the vulnerable and isolated continue to feel the love of Jesus as a very real presence.

Arkansas (USA)

Chris Collins (C); Elaine Smith (Evng)

Samworth Enterprise Academy

Give thanks for a sense of stability during a challenging year; but also prayer that outward-focussed mission can increase in 2021 & new connections with people would become growth in discipleship.

Armagh (Ireland): Archbishop John McDowell
**SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY LENT 2**

**Fairtrade Fortnight** is from 22 February to 7 March 2021. We normally think of Fairtrade as better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair trade terms for farmers and workers in the developing world. What perhaps doesn’t immediately come to mind is the link to modern day slavery.

Child labour and forced labour are problems in many parts of the world, including the UK. The Fairtrade Foundation and Fairtrade International welcomed the UK Modern Slavery Act 2015, addressing ‘slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour’ and ‘human trafficking’ in supply chains, and are committed to playing a role in enabling producers and workers to adopt a rights base approach towards eliminating exploitative labour practices by collaboration with Fairtrade networks and their producer and worker organisations, including suppliers, industry, NGOs, trade unions and governmental bodies.

Modern slavery is very much present in all areas of the food and fashion industries. It occurs as the consequence of human trafficking people who were promised better lives end up in very vulnerable positions within the supply chains. It also includes child labour from picking cotton to working in spinning mills and manufacturing.

Recent news headlines featured the exploitation of fundamental employees’ rights in around ten food and textiles factories in Leicester. Following an investigation by the Home Office, four factories were warned to improve working conditions, stop exploitation, and pay the minimum wage. Employees are happy to report that working conditions and pay levels have improved. The Priest in Charge at The Resurrection Belgrave, Fr Paskal Clement, says ‘it is our social responsibility to leave our ears and eyes wide open, and listen to the story of an ordinary person, and act upon it’.

We all have an important role to play in eradicating modern day slavery, through what we choose to buy. Cheap food and cheap clothing are keeping people in slavery.

**Please pray for**
- those who have lost their freedom, their dignity, their humanity, their choice
- the Fairtrade Foundation and the Clewer Initiative, and their work
- the Just Fairtrade shop, manufacturers and retailers in Leicester and elsewhere
- ourselves that we have an understanding of the impact of our choices when we shop; that we look for and buy Fairtrade products, and pay a fair price

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**MON 1 MARCH** Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

**Bishop Stanley Hotay**
Pray for the unity of all ministers and congregations especially for the pastors and evangelists.
Arimdale (Australia)

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**TUES 2 MARCH** St Hugh, Eyres Monsell and St James the Greater, Huncote

**Andrew Lee (C)**
We pray for all who are forgotten or throw away, the poor, sick, aged, lonely, afraid, teenagers on the street and old people in nursing homes; that God might move us to love them as the image of Christ.
Arochukwu/Ohafia (Nigeria)

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**WED 3 MARCH** Holy Apostles, Leicester

**John McGinley, Jenny Ridge, Tony Leighton (C); Ian Newcombe, Denis Walsh (R); Ashley Prince (PA); Sylvia Herbert (PA-PTO)**
Give thanks for the way we have been able to remain connected. Please pray for our outreach into the community through Alpha and other community links so that the people of West Leicester would know how valuable they are to God.
Aru (Congo)

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**THURS 4 MARCH** Bishop’s Council

Please pray for the two day meeting of the Bishop’s Council, with important strategic and financial decisions to make.
Asaba Missionary Diocese (Nigeria)

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**FRI 5 MARCH** World Day of Prayer

We pray with the women of Vanuatu that all people can “Build on a strong foundation” and live in unity, love and peace in places of ethnic and cultural diversity.
AsanteMampong (Ghana)

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**SAT 6 MARCH** Holy Trinity & St John the Divine, Leicester

**Elaine Sutherland, John McGinley, Jitesh Patel, Chris Szejnmann (C); Helen Feathers, Mandy Forrest, Wendy Franks, AJ James, Nick Packer, Bridget Patel, Anne Scott, Frances Watts, Nik Watts, Lois Young (Pio)**
Thanks for the Lord’s provision, answered prayer, effective online worship, sustained compassionate ministry with food bank and feeding the homeless. We are committed to mission please pray for fruit from our witness and for our own church family to reconnect well.
St Asaph (Wales): Bishop Gregory Cameron

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**The Anglican Church of the Central American Region**
The Stations of the Cross, or the Way of the Cross, are a series of images depicting Jesus Christ on the day of his crucifixion. The stations grew out of the traditional stopping points on the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem, believed to be the actual route Jesus walked to Calvary. The earliest use of the word “stations”, as applied in this way, occurs in the narrative of an English pilgrim, William Wey, who visited the Holy Land in the mid 15th century, and described pilgrims following the footsteps of Christ to the cross.

For centuries, Christians have used images of these stopping points to make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the Passion of Christ. Traditionally, the faithful travel past the series of images, in order, stopping at each station for prayers and reflections. This will be done individually or corporately, most commonly during Lent, especially on Good Friday, in a spirit of reparation for the sufferings and insults that Jesus endured during his passion.

Please pray:
- for our continuing journey through Lent, that we may deepen our discipleship
- that we may have the courage to walk with Christ the way of the cross

The standard set of stations from seventeenth century onwards has consisted of fourteen pictures or sculptures depicting the following scenes (only eight of which have a clear scriptural foundation):
1. Jesus is condemned to death
2. Jesus takes up his Cross
3. Jesus falls for the first time
4. Jesus meets his Mother
5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the Cross
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls for the second time
8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
9. Jesus falls for the third time
10. Jesus is stripped of his garments
11. Jesus is nailed to the Cross
12. Jesus dies on the Cross
13. Jesus is taken down from the Cross
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb
**SUNDAY 14 MARCH LENT 4/MOTHERING SUNDAY**

West Indies and New Zealand. One notable exception was Nigeria, where Samuel Ajayi Crowther became the first African Anglican bishop in 1864. In 1867, 76 Anglican bishops attended the first Lambeth Conference. Over subsequent generations, national churches gained independence from the Church of England and the Anglican Communion gradually became a global family of national and regional Churches.

As well as a common ancestry, Anglicans around the world share many aspects of their traditions and ways of worship. But there is diversity too, often even within a diocese. Communion members from different provinces bring a range of insight, experience and wisdom to joint endeavours at national and international level, including at the United Nations, in ecumenical dialogues, and in mission.

**MON 15 MARCH Diocese of Kiteto**

*Bishop Isaiah Chambala*

Pray for the church run schools and ongoing support needed for pastors’ children to attend. Pray for women newly ordained in Kiteto Diocese, that they will rapidly find their role as equal partners in the Gospel.

_Awerial (South Sudan)_

**TUES 16 MARCH Knighton**

*Adrian Jones, Matthew Gough (C), Fiona Wingate (R)*

Give thanks for resilience, mutual support, hope and generosity during the pandemic. Pray for a fresh sense of God’s leading and a ‘holy disturbance’ that encourages us to follow the way of Jesus and look outwards to those in need.

_Awgu/Aninri (Nigeria)_

**WED 17 MARCH Bishop’s Leadership Team**

_In vacancy_

Please pray for those exercising leadership within our diocese.

_Awka (Nigeria)_

**THURS 18 MARCH St Mary de Castro, Leicester**

_In vacancy_

Please pray for the Church as it discerns the future shape of its ministry and how it may serve the areas of deprivation and the large student population within its boundary. Give thanks for those maintaining the services at this time.

_Awori (Nigeria)_

**FRI 19 MARCH Joseph of Nazareth**

Please pray for all fathers, especially for those bringing up children who are not their own, and for families with no father.

_Ayod (South Sudan)_

**SAT 20 MARCH St Peter, Braunstone Park**

_In vacancy, Nigel Rooms (C); Linda Snutch (PA)_

Pray for St. Peter’s during the vacancy. The COVID19 crisis has kept some people away from church and we have fewer ways of connecting with the wider community on the Estate in these straitened times.

_Badagry (Nigeria)_

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The Anglican Communion is one of the world’s largest Christian communities, with tens of millions of members in more than 165 countries. The Communion is organised into fortyone provinces (split into dioceses) and five extraprovincial areas. All are in communion – or a reciprocal relationship – with the Archbishop of Canterbury as the Communion’s spiritual head. But there is no central authority in the Anglican Communion. All the provinces are autonomous and free to make their own decisions – guided by recommendations from the four ‘Instruments of Communion’: the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lambeth Conference, the Primates’ Meeting and the Anglican Consultative Council.

The word ‘Anglican’ originates from the Medieval Latin phrase ‘ecclesia anglicana’, which dates from at least 1246 and means ‘the English Church’. Over the past two centuries the tradition of that Church has been adopted around the world, beginning in 1578 in Canada. The Anglican Communion traces much of its growth to the older mission organisations of the Church of England, including SPCK, USPG and CMS. They sent missionaries overseas, often to British colonies. During the 18th and 19th centuries, British bishops led dioceses in countries including India, Canada, the
SUNDAY 21 MARCH  LENT 5

Within the diocese we are committed to the creation of several **Intercultural Worshipping Communities (IWCs)**. This is essentially: a church community where people from different cultural and ethnic heritage deliberately interact with one another in order to deepen their understanding and experience of God and of each other. They learn and grow together to build communities which are transformed, shaped and moulded from each other’s experiences.

These communities celebrate and preserve the diversity of humankind as a gift from God. This stands in direct contrast to monocultural churches that maintain their distinctiveness by actively excluding external influences or even multicultural churches that enable peaceful coexistence but not mutual interaction. The intercultural church expresses an alternative approach for worshipping communities one which integrates different cultural articulations of the Christian faith, it neither forces the assimilation nor promotes the segregation of different ethnic or cultural groups. There has never been a more pertinent time for the church to reflect upon the relationship between faith and culture.

Vee Pinto and Kat Gibson were licensed by Bishop Martyn on 14th September as Intercultural Pioneer Ministers to lead the newly forming and so far online Roots Intercultural Worshipping Community. The community has established an intercultural discipleship program focussed on the "I Am" sayings of Jesus in John’s Gospel, and will seek to be a place where members discover faith and are rooted in Jesus while celebrating the gift of each other’s unique cultural and ethnic roots. Vee reports that "we are excited to see both the diversity and level of creativity in the Roots community, and are really looking forward to seeing where God will take us."

**Please do pray** for the work of the leaders and communities in each of these places, that they might become everything that Revelation 7:9-10 calls us to be:
- St Paul’s Oadby
- Church of the Martyrs
- All Saints Loughborough
- Hope Hamilton
- Roots

Please also pray for the 20 partner churches that are also striving towards this same goal.

MON 22 MARCH  Diocese of Trichy

*Bishop D Chandrasekaran*

Pray for all ministers of the Trichy Diocese who will be moving to new pastorates soon and for their families whose lives will also change.

_Bahamas and The Turks and Caicos Islands (West Indies)_

TUES 23 MARCH  Roots IWC

**Vee Pinto, Kat Gibson (Pio)**

We give thanks for the growth of the new Roots Intercultural Worshipping Community online during the pandemic, and pray for Vee and Kat as they lead it.

_Bakuru (Nigeria)_

WED 24 MARCH  Clergy with PTO in Leicester City

Please pray for clergy ministering with Permission to Officiate in the City Deanery – Pip Berry, Derek Brown, Walter Burleigh, David Clark, and Beverley Davies.

_Ballarat (Australia)_

THURS 25 MARCH  Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Please pray for all those receiving lifechanging or unexpected news today, and give thanks for the obedience of Mary.

_Bangor (Wales): Bishop Andy John_

FRI 26 MARCH  Clergy with PTO in Leicester City

Please pray for clergy ministering with Permission to Officiate in the City Deanery – Arthur Deegan, Lynda Foot, Stephen Foster, Janet Gaspar and John Gates.

_Banks & Torres (Melanesia)_

SAT 27 MARCH  Holy Week

Please pray for all those preparing to lead their worshipping communities through Holy Week.

_Barbados (West Indies)_

*The Church of England: Archbishops Justin Welby, Stephen Cottrell*
It is still uncertain when Christians first began to make an annual (as opposed to a weekly) memorial of the death and resurrection of Christ. This *pascha* (a word derived from the Hebrew 'Passover') was originally a nightlong vigil, followed by the celebration of the Eucharist at dawn. All the great themes of redemption were included: incarnation, suffering, death, resurrection, and glorification. Over time, this celebration developed into what we would recognise as the structure of Holy Week and Easter.

Through participation in the whole sequence of services, the Christian shares in Christ’s own journey, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the empty tomb on Easter morning. This solemn season preserves some of the oldest texts still in current use, and rehearses the deepest and most fundamental Christian memories.

The procession with palms, already observed in Jerusalem in the fourth century, is accompanied by the proclamation of the Passion Narrative, in which the whole story of the week is anticipated. Maundy Thursday contains a rich complex of themes: humble Christian service expressed through Christ’s washing of his disciples’ feet, the institution of the Eucharist, the perfection of Christ’s loving obedience through the agony of Gethsemane.

After keeping vigil (‘Could you not watch with me one hour?’) Thursday passes into Good Friday. The veneration of the Cross is older; the sequence of meditations and music known as the Three Hours’ Devotion was introduced in the nineteenth century. The church remains stripped of all decoration. It continues bare and empty through the following day, which is a day without a liturgy: there can be no adequate way of living this except in silence and desolation. But there grows a sense of peace and completion, and then rising excitement as the Easter Vigil draws near.

*from “Common Worship: Times and Seasons”*

**Please pray for:**
- our keeping of Holy Week as we walk with Christ to the cross
- those whose Christian journey is still one of suffering today
- all those leading worship this week

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**MON 29 MARCH** Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

*Bishop Stanley Hotay*

Give thanks for our partnership in the gospel with Christians in Leicestershire and across the world.

*Bari (Nigeria)*

**TUES 30 MARCH** Clergy with PTO in Leicester City

Please pray for clergy ministering with Permission to Officiate in the City Deanery – Jan Gough, Alan Hawker, Pete Hobson, Alan Humphrey and Rajni Kaneria

*Baringo (Kenya)*

**WED 31 MARCH** Clergy with PTO in Leicester City

Please pray for clergy ministering with Permission to Officiate in the City Deanery – Aphro McCullough, Alison Roche, Keith Shepherd, Peter Taylor and Tom Wilson.

*Barrackpore (North India)*

**THURS 1 APRIL** Maundy Thursday

Pray for God’s blessing on clergy and others gathering in the Cathedral this morning to renew their ordination vows and for the blessing of the oils.

*Bath & Wells: Bishop Peter Hancock*

**FRI 2 APRIL** Good Friday

Pray that we may have the courage to take up our cross and follow Christ today.

*Bathurst (Australia)*

**SAT 3 APRIL** Easter Eve

Please pray for those preparing to be baptised and confirmed in the Cathedral this evening.

*Bauchi (Nigeria)*