In response to the closure of our churches for public worship, much of the critical response has been to stress the benefits of prayer for mental health, for peace of mind and wellbeing, for inspiration for volunteering, and perhaps even to change things for the better.

Prayer is a deep human instinct. It is rare to find anyone who stubbornly refuses to cry for help in prayer in the moment of deepest crisis or despair. Prayer is an expression of our inability to solve every problem on our own. It is a cry for help. It is an admission that we are not in control. A recent survey said that half of all adults in the UK pray, and even among those who say they are not religious, one in five admit that they still pray. Prayer is a common practice – involving far more than those who take part in regular sport, are members of political parties, or even those who go to church.

Millions of people in our own nation and across the world believe that prayer not only makes us feel better but can also make a difference. Christians pray not only because it brings peace of mind, but because we believe that, in ways beyond our capacity to understand or predict, our prayers, along with our scientific exploration, our physical labour, and small acts of compassion and care for each other, all play a part in moving this world in the direction of what is good.

FOREWORD FROM THE BISHOP OF LEICESTER
Welcome to the new edition of the diocesan calendar of prayer, which takes us through Eastertide, Ascensiontide, Pentecost, and into Ordinary Time.

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/everyday-faith/calendar-or-prayer/

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.
Today, Christians across the world will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on **Easter Day**. After forty days of self-discipline, prayer and reflection through Lent, and then the sombre notes of Holy Week and the desolation of Good Friday, we give thanks for new life and the defeat of death. Some will have held a Vigil service last night, sometimes ending with the first Holy Communion of Easter. Others will have begun today with a dawn service, finding the tomb empty just as the women did in the garden on the first Easter Day. Even those who are not regular churchgoers will exchange chocolate eggs and bunnies today, celebrating the gift of new life.

Other parts of Europe celebrate rather differently! In Florence, an ornate cart packed with fireworks is led through the streets by people in colourful 15th century costumes before stopping outside the Cathedral. During Mass, the Archbishop lights a fuse that leads outside to the cart and sparks a lively fireworks display. In parts of Eastern Europe, a basket of food, covered with a handmade cloth, is brought to the church to be blessed. In Poland, the Easter meal is accompanied by butter in the shape of a lamb. In Northern Europe, Easter fires are lit. In the Netherlands, Belgium and France, church bells are silenced for several days before Easter, leading to the legend that they fly out of their steeples to Rome and return on Easter morning filled with eggs and chocolate.

But amongst our joy, we must also remember and pray for our fellow Christians still living in the shadow of persecution and oppression – those who will be unable to worship together today and those who will risk their lives to join their Christian community to celebrate the resurrection. We pray too for those missing another year of Easter celebrations due to the COVID19 pandemic.

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**SUNDAY 4 APRIL**  **EASTER DAY**

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**MON 5 APRIL**  **Diocese of Wyoming**

_Bishop Paul-Gordon Chandler_  
Pray for the gift of listening to one another as we move forward together into a new future with a new Bishop, new priorities, new vision. May we take deep breaths and big sips of the Holy Spirit during this time.  

_Belize (West Indies)_

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**TUES 6 APRIL**  **Trinity Hospital**

_Barry Naylor (Chaplain)_  
Please pray for the residents, staff and trustees as we prepare for changes taking place in the management structures of Trinity Hospital and adjustments to worship and pastoral care as we emerge from COVID restrictions.  

_Bendigo (Australia)_

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**WED 7 APRIL**  **HMP Leicester**

_Helen Stokes (Chaplain)_  
Please pray for men leaving the prison, especially those who have spent a long time in custody; for those who have lost loved ones recently; for housing initiatives and organisations working to provide secure accommodation.  

_Benin (Nigeria)_

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**THURS 8 APRIL**  **Leicester Hospitals**

_Hilary Lomax (Anglican Chaplain)_  
We pray for patients and staff – doctors, nurses and healthcare staff, but also maintenance, security, switchboard, domestic, diagnostics and all those behind the scenes. We pray too for their families, that together they may find refreshment and strength.  

_Bentu (South Sudan)_

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**FRI 9 APRIL**  **Leicester Cathedral**

_David Monteith, Alison Adams, Emma Davies, Paul Rattigan, Karen Rooms (C); Diana Belton, Marian Kandi (PA)_  
Later in 2021 we hope to begin major development work with much of the building closed for over 18 months. This will be a big upheaval on top of dealing with the lasting impact of COVID. Pray for our welcome, worship and witness during changing times.  

_Bermuda_
Today we begin an occasional series to introduce us all to some of the diocese’s local or ancient saints.

St Guthlac’s history is not particularly well-known, but he lived from about 673 to 714, serving as a soldier in his late teens, but giving everything up in his early 20s to devote his life to God. He became a hermit, then entered the monastery at Repton, Derbyshire, for two years before going to Crowland in the Fens near Peterborough, where he built a small oratory and received many visits from pilgrims who sought spiritual guidance from him. There he lived until his death on 11 April 714. A three-thonged whip is his emblem, used (so legend has it) in his attempt to drive away evil spirits.

In the medieval period, a large church with adjacent monastery was constructed on this site at Crowland, and it is the ‘mother church’ for the small collection of churches, mainly in the East Midlands, which are dedicated to this saint. His sister is also venerated as St Pega.

One of the three churches dedicated to St Guthlac in this diocese is in Knighton, in the suburbs of Leicester (pictured). This was dedicated by the Bishop of Peterborough on 28 November 1912 (when Leicester was still under that diocese’s jurisdiction). Local people were encouraged to submit suggestions to the Bishop for the name of South Knighton’s new church. St Guthlac was preferred over St Cuthbert, St Aidan and St Clement because (it was said) of the local association with the old county administrative division, the Hundred of Guthlaxton, in which Knighton lies, which also gave its name to the deanship. The other two St Guthlac’s are at Stathern and Branston-by-Belvoir, both in Framland deanship.

Please pray:
- for those churches dedicated to St Guthlac and for their worshipping communities
- for those still living a form of the monastic life today, including the Community of the Tree of Life

**MON 12 APRIL**  Diocese of Kiteto

*Bishop Isaiah Chambala*

Please pray for the COVID pandemic situation in Tanzania, despite the government’s initial reluctance to acknowledge it. Pray for health and wellbeing of diocesan and parish leaders, and for teachers in diocesan schools and health facilities.

*Bhopal (North India)*

**TUES 13 APRIL**  Leicester University

*Luke Briggs (Chaplain)*

We pray for the chaplaincy support of staff and students, particularly of those from overseas who are very isolated. Pray too for the university making challenging decisions on staffing and finances.

*Bida (Nigeria)*

**WED 14 APRIL**  De Montfort University

*Johannes Arens (Faith Adviser)*

Please pray for students and staff in times of social isolation and whilst the university is facing difficult financial decisions. Pray for St Andrew’s, its presence on campus and work with colleagues from other traditions.

*Biharamulo (Tanzania)*

**THURS 15 JAN**  Bishop’s Leadership Team meeting

*Area Dean: John Barr; Lay Chair: Mike Alexander*

Give thanks for care and creativity shown by our churches and communities during the pandemic, and for the contributions of Peter Hooper as Area Dean and Malcolm Britton as Lay Chair. Pray for faithful openness during this time of transition.

*Birmingham: Bishop David Urquhart*

**FRI 16 APRIL**  Framland Deanery

*Area Dean: John Barr; Lay Chair: Mike Alexander*

We pray for our Ministry Team during this time of vacancy. We give thanks for the continued outreach and pastoral care in our villages and for those whose skills enable us to meet and worship together on social media.

*Bo (West Africa)*

**SAT 17 APRIL**  The Vale of Belvoir: Barkestone-le-Vale, Bottesford, Muston, Plungar & Redmile

*In vacancy, Tricia Little, Judith Wells, John Bartlett (R)*

*Bottesford & Redmile CE Primary Schools*

We pray for our Ministry Team during this time of vacancy. We give thanks for the continued outreach and pastoral care in our villages and for those whose skills enable us to meet and worship together on social media.

*Bo (West Africa)*
With schools closed for months during the pandemic, **school chaplains** have faced additional challenges as they support pupils and staff, with particular concerns around mental health.

Philip Millward, Lay Chaplain and Youth Worker at Leicester Grammar School Trust writes: “Covid has been challenging for schools: students dealing with remote lessons and missing friends; teachers adapting quickly to new methods of teaching whilst supporting families. Having arrived in November, my challenge is to support a community pastorally that I don’t yet know well. My aim has been to point to God, who’s in control, and can be called upon. Early on I spoke on Deuteronomy 31:8 ‘The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged’. I pray that this community will be able to remember this during these times”.

As schools prepared to reopen in early March, Revd Elizabeth York, Chaplain to Loughborough Schools Foundation, wrote “Pupils and staff have shown phenomenal resilience in coping with everything the pandemic has thrown at us, but – and we’re obviously not alone in this – living through all the challenges of this past year has certainly taken its toll on the mental health of many in this community. I will continue to work with teachers and counsellors to offer another safe space where pupils can process any big questions about life and loss that C-19 has allowed to surface; as well as offering the same to colleagues or parents who reach out. As before Covid, some of this ministry will be planned, but much of it won’t, so please pray I will be open to the Holy Spirit’s guiding and enabling, so that I can continue to be a compassionate friend and bearer of hope to all.”

Please pray for:
- all school leaders as they meet the practical challenges of testing students and maintaining safe teaching environments
- students in exam years, especially those who are leaving to begin further, higher or vocational education in a different context
- school Chaplains and all pastoral teams as they seek to support pupils and colleagues through the summer term, and as they try to plan for good endings at the close of this academic year

**The Church of Ireland**
This afternoon, representatives from the diocese gather at the Cathedral to bid farewell to Bishop Guli as she prepares to move to Chelmsford. Although she has legally been their diocesan bishop since 11th March, her welcome service there will not be for some time yet. Chelmsford is the second largest diocese in the Church of England, covering around 1,500 square miles and with a population of more than 3 million people.

In December 2017, we welcomed Bishop Guli as the first ever suffragan Bishop of Loughborough, assisting Bishop Martyn in his work across the county. She has had several specific areas of responsibility including overseeing our work with BAME heritage people and grow our links with a number of partner organisations. She has renewed our vocations work and helped to support clergy through the demands of the pandemic and lockdown. I give thanks to God for her ministry among us and assure her of prayers as she prepares to take up this new and demanding role. She and her family will be a wonderful gift to the Diocese of Chelmsford:"

At the time of her appointment to Chelmsford, Bishop Martyn said: “Bishop’s Guli’s contribution to the Diocese of Leicester has been hugely significant. She has championed our work with BAME heritage people and grown our links with a number of partner organisations. She has renewed our vocations work and helped to support clergy through the demands of the pandemic and lockdown. I give thanks to God for her ministry among us and assure her of prayers as she prepares to take up this new and demanding role. She and her family will be a wonderful gift to the Diocese of Chelmsford:”

Please pray:
- for Bishop Guli, her husband Lee and their family Gabriel, Eleanor and Simeon, in this time of transition
- for the Diocese of Chelmsford and for their area bishops Peter, Roger and John
- for those taking on responsibility for Bishop Guli’s portfolios in our diocese

The Nippon Sei Ko Kai – Japan
**SUNDAY 2 MAY**  **EASTER 5**

In **Christian Aid Week** (10–16 May 2021) we can all come together to fight the great injustices of climate chaos, which hits people in the developing world hardest. Together we can help them build in more resilience for survival.

Droughts are now more frequent and intense due to the climate crisis. Millions of people in Kenya are struggling to get enough food and water. Florence Muthiani is courageous, kind and a survivor. A few years ago, her husband died. She had no water to grow crops. Her children were hungry. She had to walk for hours on a dangerous journey to collect water. ‘Life was miserable,’ she said.

Florence could easily have been defeated. But Florence is a fighter, and she shows the women in her farming group that they can be too. Next to her farm, Florence is proud to show us something remarkable – a dam, full of fresh water. It’s thanks to Christian Aid donations that Florence and her community have built this dam just a short walk away from her village, so when the rains do come, they have the water they need.

‘Life was miserable,’ she said. ‘But I have been sustained by the earth dam. My life has changed. I am very happy. You can see it in my face: my face is shining. I have strength and power.’

**Please:**
- ask God to refresh you if you are weary of the suffering in the world
- ask God to replenish you with whatever you need to live faithfully with creation
- ask God to renew your resolve to take action in the face of climate breakdown
- pray for Florence and all those living at the sharp edge of climate injustice to have the resources they need to prepare and be protected from the climate crisis

*The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and The Middle East*

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**MON 3 MAY**  **Diocese of Wyoming**

_Bishop Paul-Gordon Chandler_

Pray for the expansion of Fresh Expressions to include mission, outreach and evangelism and continuing to create new ways of being and doing church within the Diocese of Wyoming for our changing culture.

*Central Buganda (Uganda)*

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**TUES 4 MAY**  **Melton Mowbray Team**

**Kevin Ashby, Mary Barr (C); Linda Pearson (R); Ted Hutchin (R-PTO); Audrey Hutchin, Lorraine Simmonds, Jacquie Wilson (PA); Janet King, Carol Parker (Pio) St Mary’s CE Primary School**

We give thanks for the partnership between our Churches. Please pray that lives and communities continue to be radically transformed as we continue to join in with God’s work through our boldness, courage, faith and humility in God’s love.

*West Buganda (Uganda)*

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**WED 5 MAY**  **Upper Wreake**

**David Harknett (C); Crystal McAllister (C-Pio); Malcolm Britton (R-PTO) Frisby-on-the-Wreake CE Primary School**

We give thanks for the partnership between our Churches. Please pray that lives and communities continue to be radically transformed as we continue to join in with God’s work through our boldness, courage, faith and humility in God’s love.

*Buhiga (Burundi)*

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**THURS 6 MAY**  **Ironstone Villages Family of Churches**

Please pray for clergy with Permission to Officiate in Framland deanery: Sue Bradley, Michael Covington, Eric Lott, and Brian McAvoy.

*Bukavu (Congo)*

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**FRI 7 MAY**  **Clergy with PTO in Framland Deanery**

Please pray for clergy with Permission to Officiate in Framland deanery: Peter Newton, Graham Spencer, and Debbie Starling.

*Bukedi (Uganda)*

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**SAT 8 MAY**  **Clergy with PTO in Framland Deanery**

Please pray for clergy with Permission to Officiate in Framland deanery: Sue Bradley, Michael Covington, Eric Lott, and Brian McAvoy.

*Bukavu (Congo)*

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This year we do not know whether traditional door to door collections will be able to take place, but we do know the digital e-envelopes will help Christian Aid to support the most vulnerable in our world

https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk

Last year through these, JustGiving pages and direct donations, £4 million was raised to support people like Florence. Thank you! We hope that we can exceed this amount this year – please consider how you and your church can help.

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**The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and The Middle East**
The Revd Matthew Gough, curate of Knighton, writes:

The theme of Mental Health Awareness Week (10th-16th May) is Nature and the Environment. https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week

King Nebuchadnezzar in the book of Daniel may seem an unlikely place to start. However, a rare glimpse of mental health recovery is provided in the telling of Nebuchadnezzar’s banishment (Daniel 4). The proud king was driven from human society to live amongst the animals and wild grass. In this state of wilderness, he realizes who God truly is and in turn who he is in relation to God. Humbled and liberated, his reason returns.

We often hear of the need to have a ‘natural reset’ whereby being close to nature is good for our mind, body and soul. When I first started my mental health career, it was the tail end of institutionalized asylum. There was something oppressive and cruel about segregating people away from the community often behind high walled perimeters. However, the experience of living in a quiet natural environment was thought to provide a tranquil escape which today’s care interventions may have lost.

Finding the elusive ‘quiet place’ Jesus asked us to follow him to is important for everyone’s mental health and wellbeing. The natural world helps us see how small we are before an almighty creator. Trees, hills, waters, and landscapes help put us in our place. Being reminded that I am not the centre of the universe is a great relief. One of the advantages of daily exercise during lockdown has been to get close to nature and in the vast expanse of green fields be reminded who we are before our God.

Give thanks:
- for the signs of God’s creation all around us, and pray that a simple view of nature and the environment will help to lift our spirits and offer a balm in troubled times.

Pray for:
- those individuals and families needing to find God’s peace at this time
- protection for our green spaces for generations to come to enjoy

The Anglican Church of Kenya
The period between Ascension and Pentecost has long been recognised as a time of prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit. In more recent years, this has grown in prominence as “Thy Kingdom Come”.

Just as last year, it’s unlikely that the usual mass gatherings and worship which are part of TKC will be able to happen. In 2020, TKC completely changed shape, yet at its heart it remained the same: praying for people to know the love of Jesus Christ. Despite the restrictions, people from more than 90% of the world’s countries took part, with new countries including Chad, Cuba and the Maldives. Christians from across many traditions, denominations and ages were involved. Testimonies were reported of people coming to faith and churches, families and individuals being drawn closer to God, being reinvigorated in their prayer life and inspired to share their faith. ‘Thy Kingdom Come under Lockdown’ resources were produced to enable churches, families and individuals to pray and worship in their homes suitable for use worldwide. Most of these resources were digital, including a popular Digital Family Prayer Adventure Map and App to explore prayer in a fun way. Thousands across the world signed up to shine their light on the Thy Kingdom Come website too.

The ‘Pray for five’ (to come to faith) element of the campaign was reinforced. And in response to the crisis, a new theme, ‘Prayer and Care’, was introduced encouraging Christians to move beyond prayer into action, practically demonstrating love and care through service to others during this time.

We expect much of this to be the same in 2021.

Visit the website to download resources for families, churches and individuals and to pledge to shine a light

https://www.thykingdomcome.global/

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**SUNDAY 16 MAY EASTER 7/SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION**

**MON 17 MAY** House of Bishops / Thy Kingdom Come

Please pray for the three day meeting of the House of Bishops.

Butare (Rwanda)

**TUES 18 MAY** House of Bishops / Thy Kingdom Come

Please pray for the three day meeting of the House of Bishops.

Butere (Kenya)

**WED 19 MAY** House of Bishops / Thy Kingdom Come

Please pray for the three day meeting of the House of Bishops.

Buye (Burundi)

**THURS 20 MAY** Diocese of Trichy

For the Trichy Diocese’s efforts to support those most impacted by the COVID19 pandemic, particularly in isolated rural communities.

Byumba (Rwanda)

**FRI 21 MAY** The Whatborough Parishes

Jayne Lewis (C)

Thankful for those who have helped to enable ministry to continue throughout the past year and seeking inspired new ways to work collaboratively and creatively, within and beyond village and benefice boundaries, that show God’s love for all.

Calabar (Nigeria)

**SAT 22 MAY** Launde Abbey

David Newman, Chris Webb, Helen Newman, Claire Goode (C); Emma Dowman, Miriam Stoate (Pio)

We hope to have reopened at the beginning of this week – pray for staff as we work to keep everyone safe while also giving guests the true Launde experience.

Calcutta (North India)

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Pray for

- more people to come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ
- Thy Kingdom Come events in our diocese and across the world

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_The Anglican Church of Korea_
The Revd Andrew Race, Vicar of Castle Donington with Lockington cum Hemington, writes:

The Castle Donington Community Prayer Quilt will be unveiled by Bishop Martyn and displayed in St Edward’s Church, Castle Donington at Pentecost.

The idea behind the Quilt is to commemorate how our local community has come together during the global pandemic. It tells a story, captures experiences, highlights things we have learned, and expresses the hopes, dreams and aspirations of individuals and the community.

The quilt is made up of pre-cut square patches, in one of four colours, individually decorated by members of the community using acrylic paints, fabric pens or embroidery. Each colour has a theme:

- Red – something we are thankful for
- White – something we hope for
- Purple – someone we wish to remember
- Green – something that inspires us about creation or the environment

In a sense, the eighty individually decorated patches represent “the prayers” of the community, stitched and held together in an authentic and unique piece of art, lovingly and prayerfully sewn together by an experienced team of embroiderers, led by Mrs Angie Fox.

Revd Andrew Race says, “The response of the community has been amazing, and the variety of artwork and creativity truly overwhelming. This quilt is a precious memorial to what has been a very dark time; yet it also resolutely demonstrates hope, vision, resilience and gratitude. Please pray that, as our community navigates its way beyond the fear, grief, pain, and isolation of the pandemic, God will by his Spirit refresh, restore, rebuild and re-vision all his people.”

Please pray:

- for the communities of Castle Donington with Lockington cum Hemington
- for a flourishing of hope, light and new life after a dark time

Give thanks:

- for those who use the creative arts to enable us to pray and to draw closer to God

The Anglican Church of Melanesia

MON 24 MAY Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

Bishop Stanley Hotay

Thank God that DMK continues to plant churches that plant churches, and that the people of DMK are slowly returning to church. Ask that God will provide the finances the Diocese needs to further mission and ministry.

Caledonia (Canada)

TUES 25 MAY Loddington with Launde

David Newman, Helen Newman (C)

With David and Helen’s departure in August, Loddington goes into vacancy. Pray for the working out of future ministry with Abbey and Deanery; and for applications for grant funding for extensive roof repairs to secure the viability of the building.

Calgary (Canada)

WED 26 MAY The Coplow Benefice

Alison Booker, Rosie Homer (C); Andrea Grindley (R); Jane Andrews (PA)

Billesdon & Church Langton CE Primary Schools

Give thanks for our school ministry and for our church officers. Pray for wisdom as we continue to be the Christian community in our villages, serving others and sharing the good news of God’s love.

California (USA)

THURS 27 MAY Hallaton & Allexton with Horninghold, Tugby, East Norton & Slawston

In vacancy

Hallaton & Tugby CE Primary Schools

Thankful for those who have helped to enable ministry to continue throughout the past year and seeking inspired new ways to work collaboratively and creatively, within and beyond village and benefice boundaries, that show God’s love for all.

Northern California (USA)

FRI 28 MAY The Langtons and Shangton

Maxine Johnson (R)

Church Langton C of E School

We give thanks for the wonderful work of the NHS and the efficient roll out of the vaccination process; which will help us all to get back to some form of normality and back into our Churches.

Cameroon (West Africa)

SAT 29 MAY Welham, Glooston and Cranhoe and Stonton Wyville

Pray for wisdom as we seek a way forward across the whole deanery with other deeply rural communities, opening up after COVID and serving our communities. Give thanks for our Wardens and other church officers.

El Camino Real (USA)
We continue our occasional series introducing us to some of the diocese’s local saints.

Wistan’s (or Wigstan’s) father died young, making Wistan heir to the kingdom of Mercia. However, Wistan declined the kingship, preferring religious life and monastic orders, so it passed to his great-uncle, Beorhtwulf. The new king wished to marry Wistan’s widowed mother to his son Beorhtfrith, but Wistan forbade the union as they were too closely related. As revenge Beorhtfrith went to visit Wistan ostensibly in peace but when the two greeted each other, he struck Wistan on the head and his servant stabbed him. Legend says that a column of light shot up to heaven from the spot where Wistan was murdered, and remained visible to the local inhabitants for 30 days.

Wistan may have given Wigston its name, but awareness of this local saint has been somewhat limited. Over recent years, however, interest in Wistan has been re-awakened by the revival of an annual pilgrimage near his feast day (1st June), and a group of pilgrims have set off from St Wistan’s Church Wistow to St Wistan’s Wigston Magna, following the route that his body was carried before going to his final resting place in Repton, Derbyshire.

There are plans to develop the pilgrimage further and to raise the profile of St Wistan. The Rector and people of Wigston Magna are working closely with Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and Harborough District Council to hold a major Festival in Wigston, to coincide with the pilgrimage, with a procession through the town, Saxon re-enactments, a fair and food stalls. It should be a wonderful opportunity to bring the church and the wider community together and to promote the celebration of Wigston’s heritage. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 restrictions have meant two years of cancellations, but we are hopeful it will finally be launched in 2022.

Please pray:
• for those churches dedicated to Wistan, especially within our diocese at Wistow and Wigston
• for the plans for the festival and pilgrimage in 2022

Give thanks
• for the wonderful Christian heritage of our nation

La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico
Without a proper understanding of the importance of ordinariness, our lives can become an impoverished waiting room as we loiter, unfulfilled, waiting for the next big event**

Last Monday we entered the season of the Church’s year known as ‘Ordinary Time’, lasting until All Saints’ Day. (Sometimes there are a few weeks of Ordinary Time between Candlemas and Lent, depending how early Easter falls.)

Calling something ‘ordinary’ suggests it is simply not good enough – somehow disappointing and certainly lacklustre. But ordinariness is the very essence of existence – the stuff of everyday living. We need the rhythm of the ordinary to help us fully encounter and appreciate the extraordinary.

From the Latin “Tempus ordinarium”, it means ‘measured time’ and refers simply to the numbering of weeks throughout a period (hence “the umpteenth Sunday after Trinity”). This rhythm allows us not just to let time slip through our fingers but to remember it, cherish it and mark it. It invites us to be more generous to ourselves – ensuring that the rhythm of our ordinary lives contains enough space for us to flourish. It doesn’t matter what we use to find this rhythm – the daily office, quiet time with Scripture, meditation, out in God’s creation or using our God-given talents.

There is a danger we assume that God can only be found in sacred spaces and at sacred times, so we fail to notice him in the everyday, going on our way looking for something else (like in R.S Thomas’ poem “The Bright Field”). We need to become better at telling our stories of everyday faith – something we have been focussing on in this diocese. God calls us as we are, ordinary everyday Christians, and summons us onward into extraordinariness.

Please pray:
• for opportunities to see God in the everyday
• for a treasuring of all that we have been given, especially the little things
• that we may all find time to spend with God in the midst of busy lives


Refugee Week 2021 takes place from 14th-21st June and is a special celebration of the contributions of refugees to the arts, culture and society. Coinciding with World Refugee Day (an international day of awareness run by the United Nations to show support for refugees who have been forced from their homes by violence), the week features educational events, as well as media and creative campaigns designed to raise awareness and highlight the importance of refugees. Save the Children estimates there are around 25.4 million refugees around the world today.

Refugee Week 2021 features a wealth of different events and activities that anyone can get involved in. The annual event provides an opportunity to welcome refugees into communities, form connections and share experiences and a space for us all to listen, to exchange and connect; to find out what we can learn from each other, and what we can build together.

The theme of Refugee Week 2021, ‘We Cannot Walk Alone’, is drawn from a moment in Martin Luther King’s historic ‘I have a dream’ speech when he speaks of white citizens joining the movement for equal rights. “They have come to realise that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom,” he said. “We cannot walk alone.”

The challenges of the past year have exposed the deep inequalities between us, including in housing, income and access to healthcare. But the crisis has also shown how interconnected we are – that the wellbeing of each of us depends on the welfare, safety and hard work of others. We are part of a shared ‘us’. That when we choose to walk side by side, to share networks and resources, or make space for others to lead, we create deeper and longer-lasting change than is possible alone.

We pray that:
• all refugees
• those working with refugees, especially in our city and county
• Refugee Week events in 2021 raising awareness and increasing involvement

The Church of Nigeria
**SUNDAY 20 JUNE  TRINITY 3**

The last year has been a very difficult one for Launde Abbey. Between March 2020 and March 2021 the Abbey was only open for three months. If social distancing restrictions continue well into 2021, the capacity of Launde will be greatly reduced and the financial hit will be all the greater.

However within all the challenges we are conscious of God’s blessing:

- we have built up good reserves before the pandemic struck, and a large legacy is a further financial cushion. Furthermore many people have given generous donations as events have had to be cancelled/postponed and we are aware of huge support and goodwill
- we have developed our online ministry and retreats, quiet days and courses have all been offered and well supported. This will never replace live hospitality and ministry here at Launde which is a big part of our unique attraction but people who might never be able to come here through distance, or inability to travel or expense, can engage in this way

**Please pray for:**

- the re-opening of Launde and the re-establishment of a vibrant ministry and business
- the appointment of a new Warden
- the Trustees in the shaping and implementation of future vision
- the staff as they assume new roles and ways of working in a ‘living with COVID’ environment

There are now further changes to negotiate. David and Helen Newman who have been Warden and Chaplain here over the last four years are retiring in August and following Bishop Guli’s move to be Bishop of Chelmsford, Jennie Page has become interim chair of Trustees. The Trustees have an important agenda as they draw up a new business plan, appoint a new warden and implement other staff changes recommended in a staffing review undertaken before the pandemic. Stephen Adshead is joining the senior staff team as a consultant Operations Manager.

**MON 21 JUNE  Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro**

*Bishop Stanley Hotay*

Pray for Mungushii Bible College and especially the Principal, Joseph Bea, and his staff. Give thanks that term has begun and courses are being offered. Pray for the building programme for new guest rooms which is designed to support the bible college financially.

Chotanagpur (North India)

**TUES 22 JUNE  HMP Gartree**

*Emma Higgins (Chaplain)*

Please pray for the men and their families, especially after this long period of additional separation due to COVID19, for the staff, and for the chaplaincy team, especially for Emma Higgins, on maternity leave.

Christ the King (Southern Africa)

**WED 23 JUNE  Clergy with PTO in Gartree Deanery**

Please pray for those holding Permission to Officiate and resident in Gartree Deanery: Mark Aldridge, Tricia Allsopp, Richard Barribal, Fred Brodie, Jan Collins and Janet Dudley.

Christchurch (Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia)

**THURS 24 JUNE  Birth of John the Baptist**

Please pray for those holding Permission to Officiate and resident in Gartree Deanery: David Faulks, Ian Gemmell, Martin Hathaway, Bernard Higgins, and Mary Ireland.

Chuba (Japan)

**FRI 25 JUNE  Clergy with PTO in Gartree Deanery**

Please pray for those holding Permission to Officiate and resident in Gartree Deanery: Diane Johnson, Matthew Joy, John Morley, Chris Oxley, Colin Southall, and Brian Thompson.

On the Coast (Nigeria)

**SAT 26 JUNE  Clergy with PTO in Gartree Deanery**

The last year has been a very difficult one for Launde Abbey. Between March 2020 and March 2021 the Abbey was only open for three months. If social distancing restrictions continue well into 2021, the capacity of Launde will be greatly reduced and the financial hit will be all the greater.

However within all the challenges we are conscious of God’s blessing:

- we have been able to catch up on some of the longer term administrative and maintenance tasks

The United Church of North India
The Revd Herbert Fadriquela, Chaplain to the Filipino Community in Leicester, writes:

The ministry of **chaplaincy to the Filipino community** in the Diocese of Leicester is a source of joy and fulfilment even in the midst of the most challenging time.

In May last year, it was reported that during the first three months of Covid19 pandemic, Filipinos had the highest rate of deaths among the ethnic groups working in the National Health Service. There are also huge number of Filipinos who lost their jobs and are in the miserable situation of financial difficulty to pay their bills and unable to send financial support to their family and dependents in the Philippines.

In Leicestershire several Filipinos are facing the reality of losing loved ones here in the UK and abroad in the battle against the virus. Many are financially affected by the reduced amount of work or loss of work when lockdown was implemented. Many are facing the challenge of maintaining the well-being and mental health brought about by isolation and loneliness; and the fear and anxiety of serving in the front line of providing healthcare to those infected and affected impacts many families.

In response, the Filipino Chaplaincy is providing basic food needs and delivery to those who have no income, are sick and in self-isolation. The Filipino chaplaincy is providing cooked Filipino food to staff of hospitals and care homes in Leicestershire. The chaplaincy continues its regular Filipino Mass in this time via Zoom, as well as regular online video chats, prayers and counselling sessions.

Please pray for:

- the Filipino and other members of ethnic groups working in the healthcare sector
- the mental health of children experiencing anxiety and worry about their parents serving in the health sector
- the Filipino chaplaincy that it may continue to become a convergence of generosity and facilitate the sharing of blessings to other people especially the vulnerable

Please also pray for those to be confirmed at Shepshed this afternoon.

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**The United Church of Pakistan**

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**SUNDAY 27 JUNE TRINITY 4**

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**MON 28 JUNE**  Diocese of Wyoming

*Bishop Paul-Gordon Chandler*

Pray for blessings on the retirement of Dean of Education the Very Rev Lori Modesitt and rest and relaxation with her husband Lee.

*Cochin (South India)*

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**TUES 29 JUNE**  Peter and Paul, Apostles

We give thanks for the example of Peter and Paul – that we can encouraged by their courage and perseverance, and by their humanity and frailty.

*Coimbatore (South India)*

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**WED 30 JUNE**  Vocations

At this time when we would normally be preparing for ordinations, please pray for more people to be called to serve in God's Church in all kinds of ministry.

*Colombia*

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**THURS 1 JULY**  Licensing of new deacons as lay workers

We pray for those to be ordained deacon at Michaelmas, as they are licensed today as lay workers in their curacy contexts.

*Colombo (Ceylon)*

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**FRI 2 JULY**  LOROS chaplaincy

*Stephen Burnham, Carol Lacey (Chaplains)*

We pray that, like Thomas, in our times of doubt and anxiety, we may find our certainty in Christ, our Lord and our God.

*Colorado (USA)*

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**SAT 3 JULY**  Thomas the Apostle

We pray that, like Thomas, in our times of doubt and anxiety, we may find our certainty in Christ, our Lord and our God.

*Connecticut (USA)*