To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world

Karl Barth

In recent months, we have seen more clearly than ever that our world is disordered. From natural disasters (such as the earthquake in Haiti) to human disasters (fighting in Afghanistan) to disasters which have an element of both (the pandemic), there is so much in our world is not in accord with the Creator's plans. And we often hear the question: 'what can I do to make a difference?'

On my desk, I have a card with the quote above from Karl Barth. I need to be reminded again and again that when I pause to pray, I am taking the first step in rebelling against the disorder of this world. And in so doing, I am making a difference. This is not to deny the importance of taking action (prayer alone will not protect us from Covid-19 – we need to be vaccinated and take good precautions). But prayer is the best possible place to start because it gives us a whole new perspective on the disorder of this world, and reminds us again and again that God is active in this world, and God's promise of a new creation is already being fulfilled.

I hope this Prayer Diary will not only inform your prayers, but also stiffen your resolve to pray and work for God's kingdom to come.

+ Marty Leiceste
Welcome to the new edition of the diocesan calendar of prayer, which takes us through from the thanksgiving of Creationtide and Harvest, through Advent and finally to the season of Christmas when we celebrate the miracle of our Saviour’s birth.

If you know of anyone else who would like to receive a paper copy of this publication, then please contact James Pickersgill, 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 bishops.chaplain@leicestercofe.org or phone 0116 270 3390 or send it c/o Bishop’s Lodge, 12 Springfield Road, Leicester, LE2 3BD.

We are very grateful to Revd Canon Brian Davis for his work on gathering parish prayer requests.
SUNDAY 3 OCTOBER TRINITY 18

COVID Appeal for India
The Coronavirus pandemic has hit the countries with which we have international links very hard. In response to the situation in India, Bishop Martyn launched an appeal to support our partner diocese of Trichy in the south-eastern state of Tamil Nadu.

The response of the Trichy diocese was quick and wide-reaching. The ‘Task Force against Covid 19’ worked day and night to coordinate information about hospital bed availability, oxygen, food, ambulance services, counselling, prayer support, financial support, plasma availability and support for funerals.

The Diocese opened food counters in each local church where food packets are kept at the entrance of the church for people who are hungry and needy to take. Facilities at the two Church Mission Hospitals in the Diocese, in Trichy and Dharapuram have been dedicated for the treatment of Covid patients and the number of beds available has been increased.

Although the situation has now eased somewhat, it remains critical. Bishop Chandrasekaran writes, “We really had a difficult time - lost many lives including a few pastors. We earnestly seek your prayers and be sure of our prayers.”

Revd Suresh Kumar, who served in this diocese a few years ago writes, “Here the fear of a third wave of Covid is gripping our people and the governments. There is a marginal increase in daily cases and the possibility of our state going for further lockdown is very real. Now the schools for years 9, 10, 11 and 12 and university courses are run with 50% capacity. Churches are closed and all religious ceremonies are not permitted. Marriages with 50 people and funerals with 20 people are allowed.

I am also concerned about the situation in the British Church after the pandemic. I pray for the Church of England and especially for the future hard times we may face with economic downturn.”

The initial response from our diocese to Bishop Martyn’s appeal has been very generous, for which we give thanks to God, but it remains open. If you are able to make a contribution, information about how to do this can be found at: https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/bishops-urgent-appeal-for-covid-19-aid-in-leicesters-indian-link-diocese.php

Please pray:
- For the Trichy Diocese in South India as the churches continue to minister to those affected by Covid-19.
- For those who are ill, those who have lost loved ones and those who suffer through lockdowns and restrictions.
- Pray with thankfulness for those who care for others in so many ways during the pandemic.

Ordination of Deacons
Please pray for the fifteen candidates to be ordained Deacon today at Leicester Cathedral.

The Church In Wales

MON 4 OCT Diocese of Trichy
Pray for the Trichy Diocese in South India as the churches continue to minister to those affected by Covid-19.
Gambella (Alexandria)

TUES 5 OCT Bishops Leadership Team residential meeting
Please pray for those leading the diocese as they meet together.
Gambia

WED 6 OCT Bishops Leadership Team residential meeting
Please pray for those leading the diocese as they continue to meet together.
Pray for Revd Alison Myers to be licensed as Warden of Launde Abbey and also for Revd James Pickersgill to be licensed as Bishop’s Chaplain.
Garissa (Kenya)

THURS 7 OCT Bishops Leadership Team residential meeting
Please pray for those leading the diocese on their final day of meetings.
Gosobo (Rwanda)

FRI 8 OCT Guthlaxton Deanery
Area Dean: Andy Rhoades Lay Chair: David Beeson
Pray for Guthlaxton as we seek to discern the Spirit’s leading for changing ministry coming out of lockdown and prepare for the Shaped by God Together outcomes, whilst managing four vacancies where appointments are on hold. Prayers would be especially appreciated for Clergy wellbeing during these times.
Gboko (Nigeria)

SAT 9 OCT Called Together / Diocesan Synod
Pray for all those who are called together to minister in God’s church, in many capacities, both Lay and Ordained. Pray for those whose ministries will be licensed and re-affirmed at the service today.
Pray for those who will attend the Diocesan Synod and particularly for discussions and decisions in changing and challenging times, as the new framework or structure for the Diocese generated by the Shaped by God Together process is approved today.
George (Southern Africa)

Ordination of Deacons
Please pray for the fifteen candidates to be ordained Deacon today at Leicester Cathedral.

The Church In Wales
For over forty years Prisons Week has prepared prayer literature for the Christian community to use as they pray for the needs of all those affected by prisons: prisoners and victims, their families, their communities, those working and volunteering in prisons and the criminal justice system. Please pray each day during Prisons Week, these prayers offered by chaplains, serving prisoners, police officers, victims of crime, prison leavers, family members and communities – crying out to God, asking for help, responding in faith, giving thanks for his unending love, grace and mercy. Let us walk together through the week in prayer and grow in our understanding of the value God places on each one of his children, so that like the ravens we may soar, free at last, trusting in the knowledge of his provision and love for us.

---

**THE PRISONS WEEK PRAYER**

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day. Amen.

A theme for contemplation and prayer is suggested for each day of Prisons Week. For more detail on each theme visit: https://prisonsweek.org/

---

**Prisons Week – Theme for Today – GRIEF**

My God, my God why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? Psalm 22:1

Province of West Africa

---

**MON 11 OCT Prisons Week – Theme for Today - GETTING HELP**

The King will reply ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’ Matthew 25:40

Georgia (Episcopal Church)

---

**TUES 12 OCT Prisons Week – Theme for Today - ACCEPTANCE**

All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Ephesians 2:3

Safeguarding Coordinators service

Pray for all who work to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our church family, for survivors of abuse and for those who have abused.

Gippsland (Australia)

---

**WED 13 OCT Prisons Week – Theme for Today - LETTING GO**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Hebrews 12:1

Gitega (Burundi)

---

**THURS 14 OCT Prisons Week – Theme for Today – LETTING GOD**

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. Ezekiel 36:25

Glasgow & Galloway: Bishop Kevin Pearson

---

**FRI 15 OCT Prisons Week – Theme for Today - HOPE**

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

Gloucester: Bishop Rachel Treweek

---

**SAT 16 OCT Prisons Week – Theme for Today – PROMISE**

Consider the ravens: they do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Luke 12:24

Gogrial (South Sudan)
The Anglican cycle of prayer asks us to remember the Church in the Province of the West Indies today. The church ministers to a population of 5,320,600 people over a geographical area of 296,910 square kilometres. 

The West Indies became a self-governing Province of the worldwide Anglican Communion in 1883 because of the Church of England missions in territories that became British colonies. It is made up of two mainland dioceses and six island dioceses, including Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Nassau and the Bahamas, Tobago, Trinidad, and the Windward Islands. Great emphasis is being placed on training personnel for an indigenous ministry. The island locations and scattered settlements make pastoral care difficult and costly.

The Jamaica Church Missionary Society is the recognised missionary agency of the Church in Jamaica & the Cayman Islands in the Province of the West Indies. The Society focuses on spreading the Gospel of Salvation with special relevance to human needs, as demonstrated by the life and ministry of the Incarnate Christ. The Society was established in 1861 as a subsidiary of the Church, intended to target those sections of Jamaica’s population ‘Hard to reach with the means of Grace’. For many years the Mission Stations established and maintained by the Society provided the only means of reaching the masses of the population with the Christian Gospel and basic elementary education.

The specific functions of the society:
• To plan evangelistic and teaching missions
• Carry out an on-going program of evangelistic and social outreach
• Undertake the dissemination of literature designed to educate and stimulate for greater involvement in mission on the part of the clergy and laity
• Provide for training of lay leadership for the Missions
• To accept responsibility for the establishment of Mission Stations in new areas
• Raise funds for missionary work in Jamaica and overseas

Please pray for:
• The Primate of the Church of the Province in the West Indies & Bishop of Jamaica & The Cayman Islands, The Most Revd Howard Gregory and all who minister and worship in the province
• The work of the Jamaica Church Missionary Society
• The three theological colleges in the province: Codrinton College, Seminaire De Eglise Episcopai D’Haite and The United Theological College of the West Indies

The Church in the Province of the West Indies

Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

Please pray for the building work that is taking place at Munguishi Bible College to renovate and upgrade the accommodation and library. Please pray for Joseph Bea, the Principal, and his team as they lead the college forwards in uncertain times.

Goma (Congo)

House of Bishops

Please pray for the House of Bishops, meeting over the next two days.

Gombe (Nigeria)

They of Bishops

Please pray for the House of Bishops as they continue their meeting today.

Grafton (Australia)

Cosby & Whetstone

Stewart Betts (interim C), Martin Stevenson (R-PTO), Eric Leese (R-PTO)

Prayers are appreciated as the parish continues in long term vacancy.

St Peter’s CE Primary School, Whetstone

We give thanks for the many opportunities God has given us here and pray for some of our groups who are yet to restart due the pandemic.

Grahamstown (Southern Africa)

Diocese of Wyoming

Pray for the God’s blessing on the 55th Diocesan Convention to take place in Jackson, Wyoming from 29th to 31st October. For the speakers Revd Dave Tomlinson, Revd Melinda Bobo and Revd Roxanne Friday. Give thanks for all those involved in the organisation of the convention.

Guadalcanal (Melanesia)

Enderby with Lubbesthorpe & Thurlaston

Jerry Taylor, Richard Balmer (C), Mark Brown (R), Cynthia Webb (PA-PTO)

Thurlaston CE Primary School & Brockington College

Pray for our young people across the benefice in particular as a number of them prepare for Confirmation in November – that they will be prepared to testify to God’s grace at work in their lives and to share their faith.
We do not have to look far in our world to find suffering. In this year, of all years, suffering has seemed especially close as our world has battled COVID-19: loss of freedom, loss of work, loss of life.

Beyond COVID, the familiar global pictures of suffering are ever present: poverty, hunger, and war. But much closer to home, suffering is ever present in our own lives in myriad ways: mental and physical illness, unemployment and work pressures, relationship breakdown, financial need.

For many in our nation, suffering is the reason they do not believe in God. For if God exists, and has control over all things, how could he possibly tolerate this amount of suffering in his world? They argue that God either doesn’t exist or has no power, or worse, is entirely evil.

Unsurprisingly, the Bible gives a different view. God’s Word gives a coherent account of why suffering exists in the world. The Bible engages seriously with the question of human suffering and speaks of a God who is intimately concerned about our suffering. And finally, in the account of the birth, death, resurrection, ascension and promised return of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bible promises an end to suffering.

Two readings this Bible Sunday address suffering. Psalm 34 is an account of David passing through suffering and being delivered by God. Job 42 is the final chapter of an entire book devoted to wrestling with the issue of why good people suffer.

**READINGS**

Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22
Job 42:1-6, 10-17

**For prayer and reflection:**

- Think about these passages under three headings: Facing suffering, Seeking God, and Finding God.
- Pray for those who are suffering in our world
- Pray for the work of the Bible Society and for access to the bible for all who seek God.

- Please pray for the meeting of Bishop’s Council today.
  Guildford: Bishop Andrew Watson

**TUES 26 OCT** Lutterworth with Cotesbach and Bitteswell

*Charlie Styles, Tom Brown (C), Ruth Bilton (R-PTO), Martin Lowdon (R), Rosemary Lowdon (R), Peter Kent (R), Ben Horrex (Youth)*

*Bitteswell CE Primary School, Sherrier CE Primary School, Lutterworth College.*

Please pray for deepening care for one another as we adjust to our new service pattern and for those exploring the Christian faith on our Alpha Course that they may come to follow Christ.

Guinea

**WED 27 OCT** Diocese of Kiteto / Bishop’s Retreat Day

Please pray for the ongoing Covid situation in the Diocese. For wisdom in knowing how to respond and for the vaccine to be made available for those most vulnerable.

In our own Diocese pray for those meeting together on the Bishop’s Retreat Day.

**THURS 28 OCT** Simon and Jude, Apostles

We pray for the zeal and courage of the apostles to return to the church today, and for those who turn to prayer as a last resort.

**Central Gulf Coast (ECUSA)**

**FRI 29 OCT** Sheepy Group

*Julia Hargreaves (C) Colleen Annan (R-PTO), Sheepy CofE Primary School.*

Giving thanks for sharing in Creationtide worship; and prayers for The Bible Course; and our link with the school, as in multi-generational ways we may discern the way to live following the one true shepherd.

**Gusau (Nigeria)**

**SAT 30 OCT** Study Day

Pray for those attending the Study Day at St Martins House.

**Guyana (West Indies)**
Rejoice, people of God, praise the Lord! Let us keep the feast in honour of all God's Saints, in whose victory the angels rejoice and glorify the Son of God. (Gwogwoala (Nigeria))

The UN Secretary-General António Guterres said the report was nothing less than “a code red for humanity. The alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable”. Human-induced climate change is already causing many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. But there is still time to limit climate change if we can make strong and sustained reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. This is why COP 26 is so important for our planet when the UK will be hosting the 26th UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow on 31 October – 12 November.

WHERE IS THE HOPE?

As people of faith, we need to find hope, as we face the climate crisis. Our faith should help us to face reality – what is really happening to our world. And in facing reality we will find our faith will deepen. Only by getting real will we find the real God. And because the vast majority of scientists are agreed that we human beings are the main cause of the climate crisis through our burning of fossil fuels, we have to ‘repent’ and change our ways. It means developing a new life-style, that is sustainable. This need not be a message of ‘doom and gloom’

Going green could be about making Britain a nicer place to live and helping the economy through the creation of “green jobs”. A new life-style could also mean caring for the environment, living more communally, sharing our resources, and helping one another.

Brian Davis has put together a talk with an optional Power Point presentation on ‘Finding faith and hope as we face the climate crisis’. (revbdavis@aol.com)

Please pray for

- World leaders as they gather in Glasgow
- God’s Spirit to work among all those who will be making decisions affecting the future of our planet
- Ourselves, that we will find a more sustainable way of living

The Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria

MON 1 NOV  All Saints’ Day

Rejoice, people of God, praise the Lord!
Let us keep the feast in honour of all God’s Saints,
In whose victory the angels rejoice and glorify the Son of God.
Gwogwoala (Nigeria)

TUES 2 NOV  Diocese of Trichy / Clergy Study Day

Pray for all those in Trichy who have been bereaved through Covid, giving thanks for the ministry of the pastors and church workers who have died.
In our own Diocese, pray for those meeting together on the Clergy Study Day.
Haiti

WED 3 NOV  Bishop’s Leadership Team

Pray for Bishop’s Leadership Team, meeting today.
Hanuatoa (Melanesia)

THURS 4 NOV  Deanery of Sparkenhoe West

Area Dean: Mark Poskitt  Lay Chair: Pat Lockwood
Please pray for our Deanery as we renew our focus, reflecting on the affect the pandemic has had on our rural churches, and those seeking aid through the Hinckley Foodbank.
Harare (Central Africa)

FRI 5 NOV  Leicester Cathedral

Pray for the Dean and all the Cathedral staff in their ministry at the heart of our city and county.
Pray for the Cathedral Revealed project, for those directing, fundraising and carrying out the work on site.
Hawaii

SAT 6 NOV  Sustainable Travel Toolkit Workshop

Pray for the workshop taking place online today run by Go-Travel, to provide practical ideas and suggested actions for parishes in encouraging more sustainable travel choices. Pray for worldwide consideration, understanding and action to make sustainable travel choices.
Saint Helena (Southern Africa)
The Wider Diocese

Reflect today on some of the organisations, people and processes which make up the wider life of our Diocese and rejoice in the work which they do. Please pray:

For the ministry of **Leicester Cathedral** as it serves the needs of a diverse City and County.

For **Diocesan Staff** looking after leadership, mission, education, property and buildings, finance, communications, safeguarding, IT and administration.

For the work around **Social Responsibility** led by Alison Adams, bringing together and enabling the work of many organisations supporting the homeless, asylum seekers, refugees and many other areas of society.

For the **Big Conversation Weekend** taking place at the Church of St Christopher in the City of Leicester

For the ongoing **Shaped by God Together** process. You may like to use the prayer below, which has been used at many of the meetings.

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia

**A PRAYER FOR SHAPED BY GOD TOGETHER**

Eternal God,
You call your people to fullness of life in you
and promise to be with us
in all the changing scenes of life:
may we be shaped by you in our lives
and communities to refresh the Church,
transform the world, and build the kingdom,
as with thanksgiving for the past,
we step out in hope and trust into your future;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

MON 8 NOV Newbold de Verdun, Barlestone & Kirkby Mallory, Peckleton & Tooley

Sue Ives-Smith, John Downs, Hazel Aucken (C), Alyn De Casembroot (R-PTO), Roger Dunster (R-PTO), Dorothy Fox (R-PTO)

Barlestone CE Primary School

For wisdom and discernment, opportunities and courage as we seek to reshape our churches for God's mission and ministry in our four villages. For Sue returning this month after a six-month sabbatical.

Hereford: Bishop Richard Jackson

TUES 9 NOV Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

Please pray for the Pastors who minister in very rural and remote areas. Pray for good transport, especially motorbikes, and also safety and protection.

Southern Highlands (Tanzania)

WED 10 NOV Burbage with Aston Flamville

Andrew Hall, Ros Harper (C), Mary Tynan (R), Phil Harper (R) Don Peacock (PA-PTO), Louise Brown (Childrens and Families)

Burbage CE Infants School.

We are praying for our 'Blossom' project as we reach out into our community to reclaim and recreate and restore unwanted, desolate spaces in our parish. Please pray that we can recruit volunteers, helpers and inspire our parish.

Highveld (Southern Africa)

THURS 11 NOV Earl Shilton cum Elmesthorpe

Martin Castle, Pauline Cummins (C)

Townlands & St Simon and St Jude’s CE Primary Schools, Earl Shilton

We are seeking to deepen our prayer lives through a sermon series on prayer and our cell groups doing The Prayer Course. St Simon and St Jude’s are exploring how we can take our children and young people’s ministry forward.

Eastern Himalayas (North India)

FRIDAY 12 NOV Hinckley, St Mary

Ian Hill (C),

St Mary’s CE Primary School

Give thanks that we have a new vicar. Pray that we might bring God’s love to all, and pray that God will keep transforming us into His likeness so that no-one feels excluded, isolated or marginalised from our church.

Hinckley (Ghana)

SAT 13 NOV Lay Congress

Please pray for the meeting of the Lay Congress today.

Hokkaido (Japan)
The Y asukuni Shrine in Tokyo was built in 1869 and is Japan’s national war memorial. It commemorates the souls of the 2.5 million Japanese who have given their lives for their country. It is the equivalent in Japanese culture to the Cenotaph in Whitehall in London.

But while the attendance of British politicians at the Cenotaph is expected, Japanese politicians’ visits to the Y asukuni Shrine are a cause of controversy.

The issue here is that the shrine commemorates all the Japanese war dead, from every lowly private to the highest General – and this includes the fourteen men classed as Class A war criminals following their trial and conviction by the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal.

While Britain and the Allies proudly remember their war dead and their triumph in the World Wars, mourning and remembrance is a more complicated matter for the defeated. In a culture also tarnished by the nature of the conflict, how can the war dead be remembered – especially in an official way – when they include those responsible for the Rape of Nanking, the sexual enslavement of so-called Korean “comfort women”, and for the torture of Allied prisoners of war?

Dealing with defeat is a challenge faced by other nations in the past. In France, following the loss of Alsace-Lorraine to the rising German Empire in 1870, defeat was explained as the last act of a decadent and corrupt empire. In its place would rise a better, stronger France. On the other hand, following the defeat of the Confederacy in the American Civil War, a powerful and attractive idea was created: the myth of the lost cause of the South due to the superior economic power of the North.

Adapted from an article by Sam Edwards, Manchester Metropolitan University

For prayer:
- Pray for the souls of all who have given their lives in conflict.
- Pray for nations where remembrance of war dead and of their part in conflict is difficult or controversial.
- Remember our own national commemorations at the Cenotaph in Whitehall and locally in Victoria Park.
- Pray for peace in our divided world.

The Anglican Church of Australia
Many of the feasts and festivals of the Church are venerable, stretching back into antiquity. The feast of Christ the King, which falls on the final Sunday before Advent, does not fit this profile. However, as this season of remembrance and reflection draws to an end, the feast of Christ the King is fitting. It was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI, but it has found traction far beyond Roman Catholicism and is now a fixture on the Anglican calendar.

When we keep the feast of Christ the King, we say that it is Christ’s sovereignty that has the last word. Though we may live in a world scarred by tragedy and the depredations and grubby compromises of human politics, the failures of this world are not the last word: Jesus Christ is.

The Kingship of Jesus Christ holds an extraordinary power to speak into our current challenges and travails because Christ’s Kingship is not based on lording it over us. The throne on high to which he is lifted should be read through the prism of his subversive kingship. His crown is made of thorns and his seat of authority is either a manger or a cross. He is not the child of privilege or power, but a child born of a couple who were little more than peasants. His kingship is ultimately shown through a willingness to embody love without limit. He offers himself for the sake of the world and redeems it. In his resurrection, lies the promise of reconciliation and the fullness of life. His Kingship has been tested in death and tragedy and invites us to join him as friends seeking reconciliation and hope.

For prayer:

- Pray for the strength of the Church under Christ her head, faithful to the inheritance of his sacrificial love
- Ask for blessing on all in authority, that they rule with mercy and respect for those under them
- Pray for all who suffer from the cruelty of power
- Pray for those to be confirmed later today in the Guthlaxton Deanery.

Adapted from a reflection by the Revd Canon Dr Rachel Mann

---

**MON 22 NOV** Diocese of Kiteto

Please pray for our link, for finding the best way to promote working with our fellow saints in Kiteto in post Covid times, with the restrictions on travel.

Ibadan North (Nigeria)

**TUES 23 NOV** Fenn Lanes Group

**IN VACANCY. Keith Carnford (PA), Jan Harding (R), Carol Patullo (R), Michelle Nelson (R), Wendy O’Brien (R-PTO)**

Higham on the Hill School, St Margaret’s School, Stoke Golding, Witherley CE Primary School. We give thanks for those who are helping to maintain the life of the church through the vacancy; we pray that a suitable priest will be found for this benefice; for a willingness to consider new ways of being church today.

Ibadan South (Nigeria)

**WED 24 NOV** National and local Governance meetings

Pray for the House of Bishops meeting today in London.
Pray also in our own diocese for the meeting of Area Deans, Lay Chairs and Bishop’s Leadership Team to take place this evening.
Pray for all who are called to serve the church through governance at both national and local level.

Ibba (South Sudan)

**THURS 25 NOV** Sapcote and Sharnford cum Wigston Parva

**IN VACANCY, Di Harrold (PA), Jill Matthews (PA), Gwynne Jones (R-PTO)**

We give thanks for those who are helping to maintain the life of the church through the vacancy; we pray that a suitable priest will eventually be found for this benefice; for growth in faith, hope and love.

Idaho (Nigeria)

**FRI 26 NOV** Four Saints (Countesthorpe, Foston, Willoughby Waterleys & Peatling Magna)

Richard Reakes (C), Rod Allard (C PTO), June Ainge (R/Pio), Mike Oates (R), Gail Mackley (PA), Helen Stokes (R), Lindsey Jelves (R) Joqui McAughey (In Training)

Pray for new beginnings as Richard starts his time with us as Rector. For all those readjusting to a new way of being church. Also, for a relatively new benefice learning how to work with each other and grow.

Idaho (USA)

**SAT 27 NOV** Community of the Tree of Life

Please pray for our Diocesan monastic community and house of prayer. Pray for the Prior, Revd Rachel Bennetts and for all who lead and sustain the community. Pray for the third cohort of resident members who joined the community in September.

Ideato (Nigeria)
Today a new Church year begins. Christians worldwide look towards the coming of Christ, preparing in heart and mind to receive the truth of divine presence through the incarnation – the child in Bethlehem – and waiting in expectation for the coming of Christ in power and great glory.

It is customary in Advent to clear away the adornments in our churches as a way of signalling a spiritual journey to be made which needs space and little distraction. It may be a good thought to be able to cast off all that clutters our minds and lives, but we cannot simply do this, particularly at this time of turmoil, anxiety and confusion. This year at Leicester Cathedral we’re keen to acknowledge something of this, even to embrace it - and so our title for these next weeks is ‘Upside-Down December’.

For many of us, the experience of living through a pandemic has brought a sense of our lives being turned upside down. Whether it is a change in work or working patterns, the isolation from others, anxiety about the future or the loss of loved ones, it can feel as though we no longer know which way is up. It seems to me that Advent is not a season to ignore all of this, but is precisely the time to bring all the upside-down-ness of life before God – because God understands this kind of landscape.

Indeed, the central message of our Christian faith is one of things being turned upside down. God coming as a helpless child into a poor and obscure family inverts everything we might assume an all-powerful being would do. Mary’s song (Luke 1.46-55) tells of God’s upside-down priorities – to put down the mighty from their seat, to lift up the lowly, to fill the hungry and send the rich away empty.

Pray for
- Those we know, including ourselves, whose lives have been turned upside down this year.
- All who will seek out our places of worship in December that they may encounter God.

The Anglican Church in Brazil
The Proclamation of John the Baptist

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah, in the wilderness.

He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, ‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth: and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”’

For prayer and reflection as we wait:
- Think about how John’s life must have been turned upside down by God’s message
- Has God ever turned your life upside down?
- Our world is facing critical issues, eg: climate and ecological change, Covid etc. Pray that God will help the people of the world respond positively.

The Anglican Church of Burundi

MON 6 DEC Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

Please pray for Bishop Stanley as he leads the Diocese in uncertain times. Please pray for his church planting initiative that through it, many more people will come to hear and respond to the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

Ihiala (Nigeria)

TUES 7 DEC Leicester Forest East & St Crispin Braunstone Town with Thorpe Astley

David Hover (C), Rosemary Meredith (R), Peter Kitchen (Pio)

Please pray for our continuing journey together as churches, trusting God to inspire us in adapting to new patterns of mission and ministry with confidence and hope. Pray for Revd Judith Lincoln as she joins St Andrew’s as Methodist Minister.

Ijebu (Nigeria)

WED 8 DEC Bishop’s Leadership Team

Pray for Bishop’s Leadership Team as they meet today.

Ijebu North (Nigeria)

THURS 9 DEC Markfield, Thornton, Bagworth, Stanton under Bardon & Copt Oak

Andrew Smith, Pauline Ashby (C), Peter Maynard (R)

Please pray for our Mission team as we continue to seek out God’s will for the J22 Benefice: Shirley Garlick, Gill Maynard, Maureen Browning, Les Gammon, Peter Maynard, Delia Geary, Adrian Whalley.

Ijebu South (Nigeria)

FRI 10 DEC Hexagon Benefice

IN VACANCY Stephen March (C), Carol Higson (R), Arnesby & Husbands Bosworth CE Primary Schools.

We give thanks for all who serve God in this benefice both new and of longstanding, in particular giving thanks for Roy who has served faithfully for many years. In a time of change we ask for God’s guiding hand.

Ijesa North East (Nigeria)

SAT 11 DEC Blaby

Jane Micklethwaite (C)

Blaby Stokes CE Primary School

Pray for the wardens and PCC as we discern priorities for the coming year and seek to build on partnerships within the community.

Ijesha North (Nigeria)
As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**For prayer and reflection as we wait:**
- If you have been baptised, think about the influence this has had on your life. If you are not baptised, what might baptism change in your life?
- Think about the resources we have in the world. Do we share these fairly? How can we use scarce resources for the benefit of all?
- Pray for the spread of the gospel and for accepting hearts.

---

**The Proclamation of John the Baptist**


John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”, for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

**The Anglican Church of Canada**
Mary Visits Elizabeth  
(Luke 1: 39-45)

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’ And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

**For prayer and reflection as we wait:**

- Thank God for the sacrifice of Mary as her life was turned upside down, for her joy and the support offered by Elizabeth
- Thank God for the gift of children and think about how we can leave the next generation a world which is sustainable
- Pray for those who are not able to have children or who have lost a child
- Pray for expectant parents
- What would you write in your song of praise?

**Mary’s Song of Praise  (Luke 1: 46-56)**

And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

The Church of the Province of Central Africa
Saint Stephen is honoured as the first Christian martyr and was one of the first deacons of the Christian Church.

Stephen is believed to have been a Greek Jew who converted to Christianity. When the number of disciples increased, there was much confusion over the distribution of alms and the serving of the poor. Stephen's trustworthy character marked him out, and he was chosen as one of the seven deacons who would perform this task.

An excellent and well trusted orator, his preaching style was so effective that many Jews became worried about his success. They accused him of blasphemy and he was made to stand trial.

At the supreme Jewish law court, the Sanhedrin, Stephen recounted the many mercies that God had given the children of Israel, and the ungrateful way in which they had repaid Him. He accused them of murdering Jesus, whose coming, he said, had been foretold by Moses. This angered the crowd and he was dragged out onto the streets. He was then stoned to death according to the law at that time, an event witnessed by St Paul. It is believed he died around the year 34CE.

He is believed to have been initially buried in a grave to the north of Jerusalem, but this body was exhumed and moved to a new grave outside the Damascus Gate. This is where the stoning is believed to have taken place.

Stephen is the patron saint of deacons, headaches, horses, coffin makers, and masons. He is often represented carrying a pile of rocks or with rocks on his head. The Feast of St Stephen is celebrated on 26th December and is referenced in the opening lines of the Christmas carol Good King Wenceslas.

Pray for
- Those who are persecuted for their faith and for standing up for their beliefs
- All who are serving as Deacons in the church
- All who work to arrange funerals and memorials

Saint Stephen is the patron saint of deacons, headaches, horses, coffin makers, and masons. He is often represented carrying a pile of rocks or with rocks on his head.

Pray for
- Those who are persecuted for their faith and for standing up for their beliefs
- All who are serving as Deacons in the church
- All who work to arrange funerals and memorials

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