

PRAYER DIARY

JANUARY - APRIL 2024



Diocese of
Leicester

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JANUARY

- 8 QUIET DAY
- 12-14 THE JESUS PRAYER
with Chris Webb
- 20 QUIET DAY
- 22-26 QUILTING AND TEXTILES RETREAT
with Claire Goode
- 29 - 1 FEB ROOTED AND GROUNDED:
Going Deeper Into Spiritual Practice
with Launde Abbey & Renovaré

FEBRUARY

- 5 QUIET DAY
- 9 - 11 FAITH IN STRUGGLE with John Rackley
- 15 RURAL MISSION HUB
- 23-25 LIVING WITH LOSS with Abi & John May

MARCH

- 5 - 8 LENT RETREAT: Treasure In The
Wilderness with Andrew Mayes
- 11 QUIET DAY with Rhona Knight
- 23 QUIET DAY with David Harknett
- 25 - 28 THE PASSION: A Holy Week Retreat
with Chris Webb

APRIL

- 1 - 4 EASTER RETREAT with Alison Myers
- 25 - 26 RURAL MISSION HUB RESIDENTIAL
- 27 QUIET DAY
- 29TH - 3RD MAY ICON PAINTING
with Peter Murphy

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prayer • hospitality • community • sanctuary

FOREWORD FROM THE BISHOP OF LEICESTER



Ever since it was announced that the Archbishops had asked me to take on the role of co-chair of the Living in Love and Faith work nationally, I have had a lot of emails and letters assuring me of prayers. On one level, this is hugely encouraging – it is so good to know that people are praying for me. Yet, on another level, I am very aware from the letters and emails that the content of these prayers may be very different! One person's prayer that I would 'see the light' carries very different meaning from another person's prayer.

At its core, prayer is about expressing our heart's desires. The Holy Spirit interprets our deepest sighs and groans such that even these are an expression of prayer. This doesn't necessarily mean that all our desires are righteous – it simply means that God hears them and, because of the incarnation, God understands them.

So I have no problem with the fact that people may pray for me, or for others, in contradictory ways. I also have no problem with believing that God will answer each of these prayers – it's just that the answer may not be what any of us is expecting. So I hope this prayer diary will be an encouragement to you in your own prayers. Don't worry about praying in the 'right' way. Rather, express your thoughts and feelings and know that God hears them. And then be open to whatever God may be saying in response.

+ 

Martyn Snow
Bishop of Leicester

WELCOME

Welcome to the new edition of the Diocese of Leicester Prayer Diary for January to April 2024. This edition takes us on a wonderful journey of revelation through Epiphany and Candlemas, through to the anguish of Lent, followed by the wonderful celebration of Easter!

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 sisters and brothers 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 Sunday. You will also find one of our own partner dioceses featured throughout. 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; GFM = Growing Faith Minister;
R = Reader; PA = Pastoral Assistant;
Pio = Pioneer Minister; AM = Associate 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, to Peter Collett & Florence Gildea for their on-going assistance, to Beth Cluer for much of the imagery and to all our contributors as always in this edition.

Particular thanks to both Archdeacons, Claire Wood & Richard Worsfold, for their reflections which we have included for Holy Week & Easter Week.



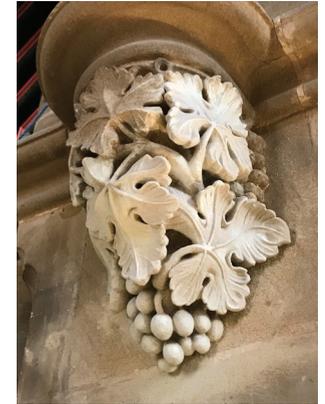
LEICESTER CATHEDRAL REVEALED



Nave roof



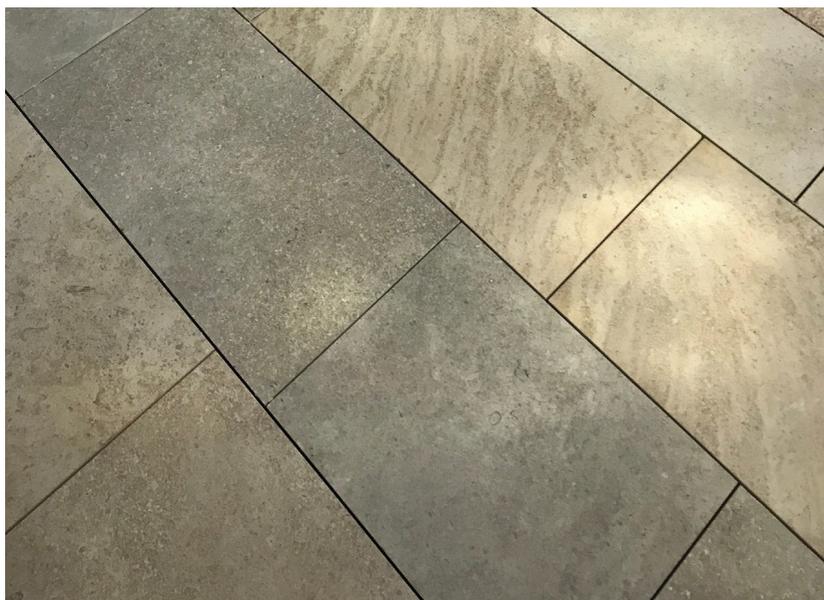
Wyvern 2: one of the 4 new carved grotesques on the south façade



Internal stonework restoration



Orientation gallery mock up



New floor

Please see page 22 for article.

MON 1 JAN The Diocese of Kiteto

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Bor (South Sudan)

TUES 2 JAN City of Leicester Deanery

Area Dean: Liz Wilson, Assistant AD: Adrian Jones, Lay Chair: Les Mitchelmore

We give thanks for the diversity of the parishes in the city, praying especially for our churches in vacancy. Please pray as we begin Minster Community conversations in the spring of 2024 that we remain faithful to God's vision of the Kingdom of God in the city.

Botswana (Central Africa)

WED 3 JAN PTO Clergy – City of Leicester

Pip Berry, Derek Brown, Walter Burleigh, Beverley Davies, Arthur Deegan, Peter Folks, Lynda Food, Stephen Foster, (Rt Rev) Robert Freeman, Janet Gasper, Alan Hawker, Peter Hobson, Rajni Kaneria, Aphrodite McCullough, Barry Naylor, Alison Roche, Simon Stevens, Peter Taylor & Tom Wilson.

Brandon (Canada)

THURS 4 JAN The Martyrs, Leicester

Bertin Hermo (C), Phillippa Taylor (C), Shayne Ardron (R), Chris Freeman (R), David Shepherd (R), Michael Dampier (R), Shobha Gosa (Intercultural Pioneer Minister)

Please pray for us as an Intercultural Worshipping Community of diverse people supporting each other in our relationships together and with God.

Please also pray for our community in West Leicester, particularly for Shaftesbury Junior School.

Brechin (Scotland)

FRI 5 JAN St Chad, Leicester

Martin Court, Clare King (C)

For the sale of our Parish Centre and redevelopment of the church as a multi-purpose building. For ontinuing journey towards being part of a Minster Community and for participating churches.

Brisbane (Australia)

SAT 6 JAN 3 Key Questions – Deepening Disciples

Our first key question as a Diocese is: *how are you growing, and enabling others to grow in the depth of their discipleship?*

Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ,
For all the benefits which you have given us,
For all the pains and insults which you have borne for us.
Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,
May we know you more clearly,
Love you more dearly,
And follow you more nearly, day by day. **Amen.**

Bristol (England)

SUNDAY 7 JAN EPIPHANY

Epiphany – Matthew 2:1-12

We have all seen the Nativity story played out annually in primary schools and churches across the land – the bit where three wise kings, usually in dressing gowns and crowns, follow a star and bring gifts to Jesus in the manger.

Dig a little deeper and the Epiphany narrative in Matthew's gospel is a story steeped in Old Testament prophecy (Isaiah 60:3-6, Numbers 23:7) and containing elements that foreshadow this story's end. Matthew wants us to listen to the whole story.

Here as at the end: the issue is Jesus' status as King of the Jews (2:2; 27:11, 29, 37); plans are laid in secret (2:7; 26:4-5); and His death is sought (2:13, 16; 26:4).

At the end, Pilate's soldiers are the first Gentiles since the Magi to call Jesus 'the King of the Jews' (27:7) but His crown is one of thorns. Then, instead of a bright star, darkness falls and we hear a single Gentile voice: yes, he really was God's son (27:54). But at the heart of this Epiphany story are three people, who hear God's call from the heavens and go on a journey to find the King.

There is a tradition in parts of Ireland, especially County Cork and County Kerry, of celebrating Epiphany as 'Women's Christmas'. Called Nollaig na mBan in Irish, it's a time for women, who have carried the domestic burdens of the year, to pause, rest, reflect and celebrate together before moving into the New Year. Epiphany invites us all to do the same, mindful of the Magi who travelled to welcome the infant Jesus and who returned home by another way, we can turn our attention to our own journey.

Jan Richardson (2023)
In the Light of a New Constellation
A Retreat for Women's Christmas



Please pray for:

- Those who are searching, on the fringes of faith, and seeking a light to guide them;
- Those whose calling is to come alongside the seekers, sharing Christ's light, especially those unreached by Church;
- Ourselves, that at the start of this New Year, that we may come again to Jesus, by whatever route we can and with the best gifts we can find.

Lisa Smith, Reader

St Mary the Virgin, Bottesford

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Scottish Episcopal Church

Church of England: Diocese of London, Bishop Sarah Mullally, Bishop Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy, Bishop Emma Ineson, vacancy – bishop of Edmonton, Bishop Jonathan Baker, Bishop Ric Thorpe, Bishop Joanne Grenfell.

Church of Norway: Diocese of Nidaros and Trondheim, Presiding Bishop Olav Fykse Tveit, Bishop Herborg Oline Finnset

MON 8 JAN Diocese of Trichy

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

British Columbia (Canada)

TUES 9 JAN St Peter, Highfields and St Philip Leicester

Jonathan Surridge (C), Caroline Brown (Deacon), Josh Crick-de-Boom (Ordinand)

Prayers for the growing emerging congregation at St Philip's and for St Peter's as we embark on our 150th anniversary.

Central Bugunda (Uganda)

WED 10 JAN St Denys, Evington

Anthony Lees-Smith, Mark Batchelor (C), Geraldine Moulden (R), Sian Rigby (R)

Give thanks for a wonderful Music Festival which brought the community together and for signs of growth and new life. Please pray for the new Sunday afternoon Crafty Church aimed at young families, for Mark and the team leading it.

West Buganda (Uganda) Aba Ngwa North (Nigeria)

THURS 11 JAN St Philip's Centre for Study & Engagement in a Multifaith Society

Tom Wilson & staff

Please pray for wisdom and courage as we work in a complex landscape of interlocking and opposing narratives, that we will all be beacons of light and hope as we help people learn how to live well together.

Buhiga (Burundi)

FRI 12 JAN St Mary's & St Barnabas, Humberstone and Christchurch, Thurnby Lodge

In vacancy, Viv Froggatt (R), Evernice Tirivanhu (R)

Give thanks for clergy supporting us in the vacancy. Pray for God's wisdom in our PCCs and resilience for the lay leaders and congregations as we await the formation of a Minster Community. Give thanks and pray for flourishing relationships in our schools and communities.

Bujumbura (Burundi)

SAT 13 JAN 3 Key Questions - Growing Disciples

3 Key Questions - Growing Disciples

Our second key question as a Diocese is: *how are you enabling growth in the numbers of disciples of Jesus?*

Heavenly Father

Open my heart to hear the Gospel

and grant me the confidence to proclaim the Good News to others

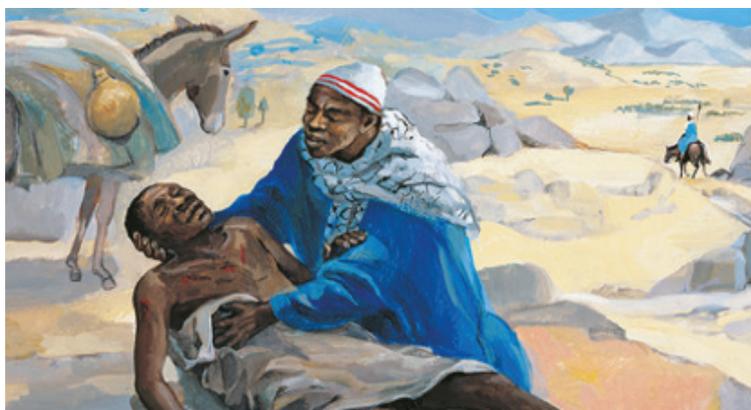
Pour out your Spirit, so that I might be strengthened to go forth

and witness to the Gospel in my everyday life through my words and actions.

Amen.

Bukavu (Congo)

SUNDAY 14 JAN WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY



This week begins the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme for this year – *Go and Do Likewise* – has been chosen by sisters and brothers from the Catholic Archdiocese of Ouagadougou, Protestant Churches, ecumenical bodies and the Chemin Neuf Community in Burkina Faso.

In choosing the Parable of the Good Samaritan for this week's scripture, the churches of Burkina Faso have invited us to join with them in a process of self-reflection as they consider what it means to love our neighbour in the midst of a security crisis. From their context, living with memories, and the ongoing threat of violence, the churches in Burkina Faso call us to reconnect to God's dream for us – a dream of a unity formed of ties of love and compassion.

The parable of the Good Samaritan is one of the best known passages of Scripture, yet one that never seems to lose its power to challenge indifference to suffering and to inspire solidarity. It is a story about crossing boundaries that calls our attention to the bonds that unite the whole human family.

The daily reflections and prayers are available at:
<https://ctbi.org.uk/category/mission-and-unity/christian-unity/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity/>

Church of the Province of South East Asia

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:
Diocese of Oulu, Bishop Jukka Keskitalo

Church of Norway: *Diocese of Sør-Hålogaland (Bodø), Bishop Svein Valle*

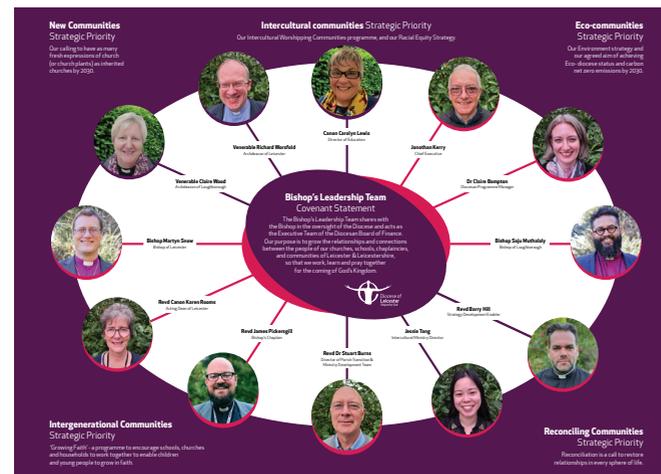
Church of England: *Diocese of Coventry, vacancy – bishop of Coventry, vacancy – bishop of Warwick; Vacancy-in See, Bishop Ruth Worsley, Bishop of Taunton (Acting Bishop of Coventry), Bishop Saju Muthalaly, Bishop Jonathan Meyrick, Bishop Edward Condry and Bishop Paul Thomas (Assistant Bishops).*

MON 15 JAN Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Bukedi (Uganda)

TUES 16 JAN Bishop's Leadership Team Meeting



<https://www.leicester.anglican.org/bishops-lodge/>

Bukuru (Nigeria)

WED 17 JAN The Resurrection, Leicester

In vacancy. Sister Beverley CSF, Sister Christine CSF; Chrispal Anand (R) St Peter's, Belgrave CE Primary School

Please pray for all those working to maintain the ministry during the vacancy.

Bunbury (Australia)

THURS 18 JAN Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

A lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" (Lk 10:25)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024 (ctbi.org.uk)

College of Bishops Meeting

Bungoma (Kenya)

FRI 19 JAN Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Jesus answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself." (Lk 10:27)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024 (ctbi.org.uk)

College of Bishops Meeting

Bunyoro-Kitara (Uganda)

SAT 20 JAN Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

"Who is my neighbour?" (Lk 10:29)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024 (ctbi.org.uk)

Busan (Korea)

SUNDAY 21 JAN THE JOURNEY TO AUSCHWITZ



Last September, my brother, a retired history lecturer, and I took the train to Krakow in order to visit Auschwitz 1 and Auschwitz-Birkenau. As we are both in our 70s, we felt that it was necessary for us to witness and experience the horror perpetrated in these two places. The purpose was an attempt to comprehend why a sophisticated nation, Germany, could institute a level of organised death on such an industrial scale as to illustrate what humanity was capable of. We were both horrified at what we saw, but also the mechanisation of death. Perhaps the worst experience was the realisation of the logic behind the extermination process.

We are living in an age which abounds in inducements to stereotyping and hatred towards those different to oneself, often linked with the idea that such people pose a threat towards what some consider to be our culture, and to determine the threat as an invasion or hurricane of influx. The events of the holocaust should act as a reminder not just of the recent past, but of the dangers of present trends and developments.

Within shared religious faith, the role of our understanding of God should not be beyond criticism. Rabbi Elie Wiesel, a prisoner at Auschwitz, in his book, 'Night', records the experience of having to witness the hanging of three people, one a young boy. The boy took a long time to die, and the question was asked within the crowd, 'Where is God? Where is he?' to which Wiesel replied, 'Where is he? He is hanging on the gallows'. We saw these gallows at Auschwitz. In 'The Trial of God', Wiesel tells of three Jewish scholars in Auschwitz putting God on trial. It lasted several nights and resulted in the unanimous verdict that God was guilty of

crimes against creation and humankind. After a silence, one of the scholars announced that it was time for evening prayers and the tribunal recited Maariv, the evening service.

Not all will be able to make the journey to Auschwitz, but we should all, of whatever faith, be mindful of the possibility of our hatreds and antipathies leading to the logic of death and extermination.

Prayer Points:

- For a world free from genocide; where no one's life is threatened because of who they are, what they look like, or what they believe.
- For our country and our churches to be safe and welcoming for those seeking asylum and refugees.
- That any attempts to divide our communities and demonise others do not succeed; and there is a growing appreciation and respect for the value of each and every person.

Canon David Jennings

PTO

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. (Lk 10:31)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024 (ctbi.org.uk)

The Church of South India

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:

Diocese of Tampere, Bishop Matti Repo

Church of England:

Diocese of Manchester, Bishop David Walker, Bishop Matthew Porter, Bishop Mark Davies

MON 22 JAN Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. (Lk 10:34)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024 (ctbi.org.uk)

Diocese of Kiteto

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Busoga (Uganda)

TUES 23 JAN Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. (Lk 10:34)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024 (ctbi.org.uk)

Central Busoga (Uganda)

WED 24 JAN Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Jesus said: "Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour?" (Lk 10:36)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024 (ctbi.org.uk)

Butare (Rwanda)

THURS 25 JAN Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise". (Lk 10:37)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024 (ctbi.org.uk)

The Conversion of Paul :

O God, who, through the preaching of the blessed Apostle Saint Paul, hast caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant, we beseech thee, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may shew forth our thankfulness unto thee for the same, by following the holy doctrine which he taught; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Butere (Kenya)

FRI 26 JAN Loving Service - 3 Key Questions

Our third key question as a Diocese is: *How are you serving your community, and enabling others to love and serve those around them?*

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it: a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor; a world where everyone can enjoy the riches of creation; a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love. Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Buye (Burundi)

SAT 27 JAN Holocaust Memorial Day / Yom HaShoah

Loving God, we come to you with heavy hearts, remembering the six million Jewish souls murdered during the Holocaust. In the horrors of that history, when so many groups were targeted because of their identity, and in genocides which followed, we recognise destructive prejudices that drive people apart.

Forgive us when we give space to fear, negativity and hatred of others, simply because they are different from us. In the light of God, we see everyone as equally precious manifestations of the Divine, and can know the courage to face the darkness.

Through our prayers and actions, help us to stand together with those who are suffering, so that light may banish all darkness, love will prevail over hate and good will triumph over evil. Amen.

(Please see previous article on page 12 – Sunday 21st January 2024)

Byumba (Rwanda)



I spent my childhood in a leprosy hospital, where my mother was a nurse, in the city of Bangalore. So, growing up, my friends were children whose parents lived with leprosy. But to

me, they were just my friends – we flew kites, played marbles, and played cricket together.

There in the leprosy hospital, sat on my mother's lap, was where I learned to pray. Often, my mother would wake up at 5am, put on the Christian radio station and listen to a programme called Gospel for Asia. When I saw her on her knees in tears once, I asked her why. "I didn't know where else to turn, and I found comfort and direction in prayer," she said. I learnt there that God is real, and about the importance of not being afraid of entering situations of brokenness pain.

People with leprosy are people made in the image of God – nothing less. Although many societies neglect and marginalise them, God does not. God has a special place in his heart for the seeming outcasts and unclean. In the words of Bishop Paulose Mar Gregorius, "Suffering has the capacity to enable us to see the deep mysteries of God" and in the words of Corrie Ten Boom, 'There is no pit so deep that God is not deeper.' There were the sorts of lessons I gained first-hand on the grounds of the leprosy hospital off Magadi Road in Bangalore.

Saju Muthalaly
Bishop of Loughborough



The Leprosy Mission Prayer

Almighty Father, the giver of life and health, look mercifully on those who suffer from leprosy. Stretch out your hand to touch and heal them as Jesus did during his earthly life. Grant wisdom and insight to those who are seeking the prevention and cure of the disease; give skill and sympathy to those who minister to the patients; reunite the separated with their families and friends; and inspire your people with the task set before The Leprosy Mission, that it may never lack either the staff or the means to carry on its healing work, in accordance with your will, and to the glory of your holy name. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. Amen.

New Canons installed at Leicester Cathedral



Almighty God, who has given you the will to undertake all these things, give you also the strength to perform them; that he may complete that work which he has begun in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Church of England:

Diocese of Birmingham, Bishop Michael Volland, Bishop Anne Hollinghurst

Church of Ireland:

Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Bishop Paul Colton

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:

Diocese of Elsinore, Bishop Peter Birch

MON 29 JAN Bishop's Council

Diocese of Wyoming

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Calabar (Nigeria)

TUES 30 JAN All Saints, Belgrave

Sunny George (C), Anita Dulkoan (Evng), Sham Kalsi (Evng)

Give thanks to God for all those who are being impacted by our worship and ministry in the community.

Calcutta (North India)

WED 31 JAN St Theodore of Canterbury

In vacancy

Please pray for those sustaining the life of this church in the vacancy.

Caledonia (Canada)

THURS 1 FEB All Saints, Scraftoft & Netherhall

Martin Court (C), Julie Harget (PA)

Continuing journey towards being part of a Minster Community and for participating churches. Michal Kmet, ordinand in contextual training with us for two years.

Calgary (Canada)

FRI 2 FEB St Stephen, North Evington

Irving Richards (C)

Giving thanks for the mission and ministry in the parish.

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) (See article on page16 – Sun 4th February 24)

California (Episcopal Church)

SAT 3 FEB Diocesan Strategic Priorities - Intercultural Communities

One of our priorities is to develop worshipping communities where people of different cultures can learn from and bless one another, so we can better serve the God of all peoples, all languages and all nations.

God of all peoples, all nations, all cultures, forgive us for where we mistake 'The way we do things around here' with Your way, and 'people who look like us', with your people. Forgive and free us of our prejudices, help us to seek your face in those whom we have othered, and be open to blessings from those we have cursed. Heal and strengthen and equip your body to love and serve you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Northern California (Episcopal Church)

SUNDAY 4 FEB JESUS IS PRESENTED IN THE TEMPLE



Luke 2:22-40 (New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised)

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'),²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon[c] came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage,³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with

fasting and prayer night and day.³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Return to Nazareth

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

The great culmination of the revelation season of Epiphany centres on Jesus presented in the temple. The elation and wonder etched on Simeon and Anna's faces are a joy to behold; sit and ponder and imagine what it would have been like for them after a lifetime of waiting and expectation. As we marvel again at the saving presence of Christ in our own lives, let us pray earnestly that more and more people will come to a heart full of revelation and gratitude of who Jesus is and all that he has done for us in our lives.

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Anglican Church of South America

Church in Wales: Diocese of Bangor, Archbishop Andrew John, vacancy – assistant bishop

Church of Ireland: Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough, Archbishop Michael Jackson

MON 5 FEB Diocese of Trichy

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Cameroon (West Africa)

TUES 6 FEB Stocking Farm and Beaumont Leys

Rob Hinsley (C), Liz Smith (PA)

We continue to pray for opportunities to minister in our nine Primary and two Secondary Schools; for the creation of open access youth work with Leicester City Council and partners; and for the ongoing work of our Food Bank.

El Camino Real (Episcopal Church)

WED 7 FEB St Aidan, New Parks

In vacancy.

We continue to trust the Lord as we are still in an interregnum. Through the sacrament, prayer and fellowship we are sustaining growth. We also continue to link with the community and especially through positive contacts with schools.

Canberra and Goulburn (Australia)

THURS 8 FEB Wyggestons

Tony Leighton (Master)

Please pray for the Governors (Trustees) as they work with the Diocese to find a replacement for Tony Leighton (who will be retiring as Master from the end of June 24). Please also pray that as Minister Communities begin to be formed in the City, Wyggestons is included for the flourishing of all.

Canterbury (England)

FRI 9 FEB Leicester, St Anne, St Paul & St Augustine

Liz Wilson (C), Sharon Andrews (C), Sharon Plant (C), Margaret Gillespie (R- PTO), Denis Walsh (R), John Andrews (Lay Minister)

We give thanks for the different ways we love our community: schools work, drop-in sessions, litter picking, allotment, organ scholarships, and footcare, among others. We pray for our work with families and children, especially the recent relaunch of our Messy Church.

Cape Coast (West Africa)

SAT 10 FEB Annual Vocations Day

Lord, you call us by our names. Help us to be confident in our own unique identity; to find opportunities to develop our specific gifts and our passions.

Enable us to hear and recognise the call of Jesus in our lives, and those of others.

Help us to find appropriate and life-giving ways to spread your Good News in ways which draws others to you and helps them experience your radical and extraordinary love. Amen.

Cape Town (Southern Africa)



Jesus said: "I have come that they may have life, and have it in all its fullness" (John 10:10)

The reality for many people is lives blighted by poverty and inequality, compounded by stereotype and misinformation. As Christians we are called to create societies in which everyone can flourish.

Church Action on Poverty Sunday is an initiative of the ecumenical Christian social justice charity Church Action on Poverty. Founded in 1982, Church Action on Poverty describes itself as having "a vision that the UK can and should be a place free of poverty, where everyone can exercise dignity, agency and power."

Church Action on Poverty Sunday is the last Sunday before Lent each year. The theme for 2024 is Dreamers Who Do, encouraging us not only to dream of a better world but to find ways to work together to make it a reality and to "Give, Act and Pray as part of the movement to end UK poverty".

Free resources are available to aid study and worship and help congregations to become better informed about the personal, political and social realities of poverty, the causes of poverty, and to reflect prayerfully on how our faith calls us to work with people experiencing poverty for justice and for change. There are specific resources for churches wishing to observe Church Action on Poverty Sunday and more information can be found here: <https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday>

Please pray for:

- For all who lead in local and national government
- For wisdom and compassion in decision-making and for a fairer sharing of resources
- For churches and charities and all who offer practical help
- For those struggling at this time, that their voices may be heard

Revd Clare King

Associate Minister, St Chad's

Racial Justice Sunday

Loving God, we are sorry for judging others in our heart and actions. Open our eyes to see you in the faces of those you have created, lead us to listen to others who are different to ourselves, and help us to pursue justice in the way you do. Amen.

For more resources for use around Racial Justice Sunday, visit: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/liturgical-resources-racial-justice-sunday>

The Episcopal Church of South Sudan

Church of England: Diocese of Worcester, Bishop John Inge, Bishop Martin Gorick

Church of Norway: Diocese of Hamar, Bishop Ole Kristian Bonden

MON 12 FEB Bishop's Leadership Team Residential Meeting at Launde Abbey

Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba (West Indies)

TUES 13 FEB Bishop's Leadership Team Residential Meeting at Launde Abbey

**St. Margaret, The Abbey Benefice, Leicester
In vacancy, Nigel Rooms (C), Margaret Gillespie (R -PTO)**

We give thanks for God sending to us people from India as well as some with housing and mental health challenges. Pray that we may respond well. We are also praying that the long-standing organ restoration project can come to a successful completion.

Carlisle (England)

WED 14 FEB Bishop's Leadership Team Residential Meeting at Launde Abbey

Ash Wednesday

Usually these days, when you stay in an Air B&B or hotel, you are usually emailed a questionnaire to fill in on how you rated your stay through Trip Advisor. Imagine our surprise after a recent trip when, without asking, we were emailed an evaluation on how we had been as customers – including how clean we left the accommodation! Fortunately, we got 5 out of 5!

As we begin Lent, let us once again open ourselves to God and allow him to search us and identify those areas of our lives that we would not get 5 out of 5 for cleanliness and ask him to fill us afresh with his spirit, wash us clean and seek God for new, healthy, holy habits to take up so we draw closer to him and better serve those around us.

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ!

The Bishop's Lent Appeal this year is supporting Baca. Please see page 20 – Sunday 18th February 2024.

East Carolina (Episcopal Church)

THURS 15 FEB St Andrew, Jarrom Street, Leicester

Johannes Arens, David Clark, Stephen Foster, Barry Naylor (C). Sam Thobiyas (Pastoral Assistant)

Please pray for our efforts to properly integrate students and hospital staff into our worshipping community who are in the country for a limited period of time.

North Carolina (Episcopal Church)

FRI 16 FEB St Nicholas Church Leicester

Karen Rooms, Manuela Schmucki (C)

We give thanks for the many ways that the members of our church community are offering up their gifts to make possible our worship and community life. We particularly pray for the ministry of the newly formed Community Team and the Pastoral Care Team.

South Carolina (Episcopal Church)

SAT 17 FEB

Upper South Carolina (Episcopal Church)



Baca is a charity based in Loughborough and Cambridge which provides accommodation and therapeutic care for young people seeking refuge in the UK, without families.

The vision for the charity came from a local church after child refugees, who were being housed in unsafe environments, started coming to its youth group. Since opening a house to provide secure accommodation for those young people, Baca's service has grown and developed so that it can provide young people seeking refuge with the holistic support they need to lead a happy and fulfilling life.

Baca now runs 11 homes in Loughborough, with capacity for 39 young people, and has two homes in Cambridge. The young people also receive specialised education and training, enabling them to develop their English language, Maths and ICT skills so they can then transition into mainstream colleges.

Baca also provides art, dance and drama therapy and weekly sports activities like football, cricket, swimming and volleyball. This support enables the young people to begin to recover from their traumatic experiences and improves their mental and physical wellbeing. Each young person cared for by Baca also has a support worker who helps them to develop life skills like cooking, and to adjust to life in the UK, its laws and culture.

Those who work at Baca say they are privileged to get to know such extraordinary young people and to see them begin to heal and thrive. Each young refugee Baca serves has lost the only life they know and has overcome all the odds to reach safety. Their

courage is inspiring but without support they are at extreme risk of harm and exploitation, unsure who they can trust or where they belong. Baca exists because whatever their circumstances, Baca believes every young person should have a safe place to heal and the freedom to build a better future.

We hope that by choosing Baca as our Lent Appeal charity, we can send a message to the young people in their care that they are precious and beloved children of God.

Prayer points:

- For all those who are forced to flee their countries because of war, persecution and violence, and especially for those who have to leave their countries as children, without their families - that they can find safety, care and welcome in a new home.
- For all the child refugees to be given the opportunity be safe, to heal, to thrive and to find hope for their futures.
- That there would be more compassion in how refugees and asylum-seekers are viewed and treated in the UK, so they can feel safe and begin to heal.
- For the work of Baca - that they would have all the funding, resources and partnerships they need to continue to provide life-changing and holistic support.

The Episcopal Church of Sudan

Church of Ireland: *United diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe, Bishop Michael Burrows*

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark: *Diocese of Roskilde, Bishop Ulla Thorbjörn Hansen*

MON 19 FEB Diocese of Kiteto

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese. *Western North Carolina (Episcopal Church)*

TUES 20 FEB Aylestone St Andrew with St James

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

We give thanks for diversity; warmth and welcome; our new church wardens, new Musical Director, new Admin Assistant, and for those who have faithfully attended church for many years. We pray for faith, hope and charity in the months ahead. *Cashmel, Ferns and Ossory (Ireland)*

WED 21 FEB St Christopher, Leicester

Chris Collins (C), Charles Ndigirwa (C), Elaine Smith (Evng) Samworth Enterprise Academy

Thanks for our expanding opportunities for ministering in and with Tudor Grange Samworth Academy, and the continued popularity of our 'Craft Cafe' activity with local people. Please pray God would work in the local people we have contact with, and we would see opportunities to share the good news of Jesus Christ with them. *Chandigarh (North India)*

THURS 22 FEB St Hugh, Eyres Monsell and St James the Greater, Huncote

Andrew Lee (C)

We pray for both parishes to grow by 10% next year. We pray that the Healing Ministry will further develop so that many people can receive baptism and confirmation. *Chelmsford (England)*

FRI 23 FEB General Synod

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

Chester (England)

SAT 24 FEB Diocesan Strategic Priorities - Intergenerational Communities

We have made Intergenerational Communities a priority within the Shaped By God Together process to inspire, equip, and support local leaders to facilitate intergenerational worship experiences, learning spaces and serving opportunities. This will, we believe, bless not just children and young people, but those of all ages.

God of all generations, who, in Christ, revealed yourself to Simeon and Anna and welcomed the little children, thank you that you make yourself known to us whatever our age or stage, and that you have made us with gifts to pass between generations. Bless those who in our Diocese seek to bring together people of different ages to learn, love and serve well together. Help us to guide people on the way of Christ, no matter how far along they are on the journey. Amen.

Chhattisgarh (North India)

SUNDAY 25 FEB LEICESTER CATHEDRAL REVEALED



Leicester Cathedral Revealed is renewing the Cathedral so it can be its very best as a place of worship, heritage, pilgrimage, hospitality, learning, sanctuary and celebration.

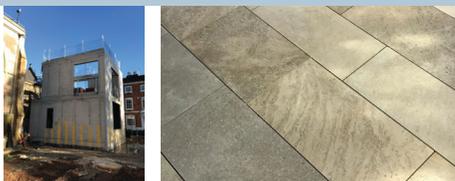
The project has completed repair and restoration of the cathedral building to secure the fabric for the long term,

Works included:

- Conservation of external stonework
- A new stone floor, level throughout, with energy-efficient underfloor heating
- Replacing failing infrastructure such as boilers, electrical system
- Installing new lighting and AV
- Plaster repairs and redecoration
- Creating a new ramped access from Guildhall Lane to the North Porch

Leicester Cathedral Revealed is also constructing a new Heritage & Learning Centre, a striking extension to the Cathedral. Good progress is being made and the centre will open in late summer 2024. It will provide an exhibition gallery with immersive interpretation, a flexible learning space for school children and community groups, and WCs.

Access to the Cathedral will be via the North Porch from Guildhall Lane until work on the new Heritage & Learning Centre is completed and the whole site including Cathedral Gardens will be open and accessible.



The project will deliver a 3-year programme of events, activities and engagement to reach new, wider and more diverse audiences.

Leicester Cathedral Revealed will realise our vision to restore the cathedral building, renew its sacred spaces, and reaffirm the Cathedral's place at the centre of a resurgent city and county.

Please pray for:

- Cathedral staff and volunteers involved with the project as the Cathedral re-opens for services, events and general visiting, including the tomb of King Richard III
- New staff joining the project to help deliver the 3-year programme of events, activities and engagement
- The contractor and consultant team completing the complex building works for the new Heritage & Learning Centre
- Ongoing efforts to secure the final funding needed to complete the project including the archaeological assessment and analysis work
- The new Dean, Karen Rooms, who will start in post on the 9th March 2024

Simon Bentley

Project Director for Leicester Cathedral Revealed
simon.bentley@leicestercofe.org

The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Church of England: Diocese of Peterborough,
Bishop Debbie Sellin, Bishop John Holbrook

Church of Ireland:
Diocese of Meath and Kildare, Bishop Pat Storey

MON 26 FEB Diocese of Wyoming

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

General Synod

Chicago (Episcopal Church)

TUES 27 FEB General Synod

Holy Apostles, Leicester

Jenny Ridge, Ian Newcombe, Tony Leighton (C), Ashley Prince (PA - PTO)

Pray for us as we seek to develop a ministry for the 'West End Youth'. Give thanks for all that God is doing through our community café. Please uphold Tony Leighton in prayer as he retires as our Associate Priest in February.

Chichester (England)

WED 28 FEB Holy Trinity and St John the Divine, Leicester

Elaine Sutherland, Jitesh Patel, James Norris, Hannah Hall (C); Lois Young (Pio), Anne Scott (Pio).

Pray for our new Community Fridge and Waste Food Café venture with Kings Coffee House. Pray for salvation and fruitfulness through our extensive

Christmas outreach program in the Christmas season. Pray for our work amongst students and young adults.

Chotanagpur (North India)

THURS 29 FEB St James the Greater, Leicester

Andrew Quigley, Jane Sharp (C), Angela Jagger (R-PTO), Victoria Roe (PA), Sheila Roberts (R)

For our service of community, welcome of students and ministry through music, particularly among the young. Also for those new to the UK joining the community.

Christ the King (Angola)

FRI 1 MARCH World Day of Prayer

<https://www.wwdp.org.uk/2024-theme-and-country-palestine/>

Christ the King (Southern Africa)

SAT 2 MARCH Diocesan Strategic Priorities – New Communities

As we look to fulfil our vision of the Kingdom of God we seek not only the renewal of our existing churches and fresh expressions but also to create and grow new communities so that we can reach and serve more people who wouldn't otherwise 'do' Church.

God of new beginnings,

Bless and equip, refresh and inspire the pioneers in our Diocese

and those whom you are calling to this ministry.

Bless us with your creativity and imagination

As we explore new ways to share your timeless love.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Christchurch (New Zealand)

SUNDAY 3 MARCH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



On Friday 8th March, it is International Women's Day (IWD), a global movement which has been marked annually since 1911. Its purpose is to celebrate women's achievements, whilst encouraging positive change towards the equality of women through education and the raising of awareness. The theme for this year is; 'Inspire Inclusion'.

Inclusion is a theme that is threaded through the bible: Jesus embodies this in his invitation to include the outcasts, such as Zacchaeus the tax collector by going to his house to eat with him and also in the healing of the 'unclean' lepers. His inclusion of women as His disciples such as: Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna and Salome, who accompanied and supported Him throughout His ministry demonstrates Jesus' inclusivity regardless of gender. It was women who discovered the empty tomb and women were amongst those who witnessed Jesus' crucifixion.

If we allow Jesus to be our inspiration, we can be those who are truly inclusive of others regardless of gender or age. Inclusivity is about loving our neighbour, putting the needs of others before our own. It speaks of following Jesus with a servant heart, without partiality or restriction.

If we truly desire to be 'the body of Christ and individually members of it' (1Corinthians 12:27) as St Paul tells us that we are, then will be an inclusive body of people. We will allow others to inspire us, seeing and celebrating the difference that they bring, whilst valuing their God given gifts, not thinking more highly of some over others.

I invite you to spend a few moments reflecting on the two words 'Inspire Inclusion', does your mind

immediately recall someone who has inspired inclusion? Perhaps, this is something that God is calling you to do, to be that person who works to include others, those who may feel that they are unimportant and powerless.

Let us pray for:

- Pray for the International Women's Day movement, that it will continue to be an inspiration.
- Pray for the women of the world, that they will be released to be the inspiration that they have been called to be. Pray for their protection and thank God for the sacrifices that they make to be those who inspire others in spite of persecution.
- Pray that God will show us how to be both inspiring and inclusive in our walk with Him and in our dealings with others.

Revd Sue Frost

Chair of the Diocesan Women's Ministry Group

The Church of the Province of Uganda

Church of England:

*Diocese of Canterbury - Archbishop Justin Welby,
Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin*

Church of Ireland:

*Diocese of Down and Dromore,
Bishop David McClay*

MON 4 MARCH Diocese of Trichy

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Chubu (Japan)

TUES 5 MARCH St John the Baptist, Clarendon Park

Sami Lindsey, David Lewis, Jon Tearne, Ali Simpson-Smith (C)
St John the Baptist CE Primary School

Please pray for Sami and Scott as they seek to discern God's will and vision for Catalyst and the wider church community at St John's. For Sharon and her team as they plan for a new worshiping community plant. For Ali and the growing Emmaus community and their deepening of discipleship, and for David as he continues to establish our new Creative community.

Clogher (Ireland)

WED 6 MARCH Bishop's Leadership Team Meeting

Church of the Nativity (LEP)
Ivan Bennett (C)

We continue to give thanks for our new families at Nativity and thank God for the many new people who have come to our coffee mornings. Prayers for our continued work with our scout group and the local community residential homes.

The Diocese on the Coast (Nigeria)

THURS 7 MARCH Knighton (St Mary Magdalen and St Guthlac)

Adrian Jones, Cecilia Adjadje, Aphro McCullough, Janet Gasper, Alison Roche (C), Fiona Wingate (R)

Please pray that we will embrace the challenge of change with grace, humility, kindness towards others and wisdom. We hope to listen more attentively to God and to each other, and to be more responsive and obedient to the Lord.

Cochin (South India)

FRI 8 MARCH International Women's Day

See article on page 24.

Coimbatore (South India)

SAT 9 MARCH

God our Father, Lord of all the world, through your Son you have called us into the fellowship of your universal Church: hear our prayer for your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry each may be an instrument of your love, and give to your servant Karen, now to be instituted and installed as Dean of Leicester, the needful gifts of grace; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Columbia (Episcopal Church)



John 19:25b-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.'²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you; you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.

Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; through your gentleness we find comfort in fear. Your warmth gives life to the dead, your touch makes sinners righteous. Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us; in your love and tenderness remake us. In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness, for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

St Anselm (1109)

For prayer and reflection as we journey through Lent:

- Thank God for the gift of Jesus who knows the thoughts of each of our hearts
- Rejoice with those for whom today, Mothering Sunday, is a day of great delight
- Grieve with those for whom today brings heighten pain, isolation, estrangement and those who feel as if their hearts have been pierced also
- Pray for those all over the world turning to faith in Christ and especially in countries where the message of Christ is opposed
- For us all as we journey with Christ on the sacrificial road of discipleship

Revd Canon Alison Adams

Canon Pastor, Leicester Cathedral

The Episcopal Church

Church of England: Diocese of Chelmsford,
Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani,
Bishop Roger Morris, Bishop Peter Hill

Church of Sweden: Diocese of Karlstad,
Bishop Sören Dalevi

MON 11 MARCH Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Colombo (Ceylon)

TUES 12 MARCH St Mary de Castro, Leicester

In vacancy.

Pray for all those who continue to support the ministry at St Mary's in the vacancy.

Colorado (Episcopal Church)

WED 13 MARCH St Peter, Braunstone Park

Nigel Rostock (C)

We give thanks for growth, asking God to draw others into our life of worship, holding Jesus at our centre. We thank God for faith conversations, connections with community, local bikers, and the pioneering ministry of God's Squad Motorcycle Club.

Congo Brazzaville (Congo)

THURS 14 MARCH The Conventional District of Hamilton, Leicester (Hope Hamilton)

Ed Down (C)

Hamilton CE Primary School

We are part of both the Diocese's Intercultural Worshipping Communities group, and the North East Leicester Minster Community currently in discussion. May God lead and direct our path and role in these areas.

Conneticut (Episcopal Church)

FRI 15 MARCH The Cathedral Parish of St Martins

Karen Rooms (Dean), Alison Adams, Emma Davies, Manuela Schmucki, Julia Bradshaw (C), Marian Kandi (PA)

That every Cathedral visitor might have a sacred encounter or a glimpse of glory whether they visit to explore our history, to pause in a busy day, to join in worship, or visit the tomb of King Richard III. For encouragement and blessing for our Cathedral staff and volunteers.

Connor (Ireland)

SAT 16 MARCH Diocesan Strategic Priorities - Reconciling Communities

One of our strategic objectives is for our worshipping communities to become Reconciling Communities – places where people share the love of God across difference, and experience the restoration of relationships with others, with themselves, with creation, and with God.

Triune God, in you, diversity and unity come together seamlessly. But in our churches, in our homes and in our communities, there are fractures. Sometimes we exclude or disown; at other times, we keep at arm's length and substitute love for tolerance. Teach us what it means to be one as Father and Son are one. Give us the forbearance to seek peace over victory, the strength to let go of grudges and the courage to give and receive forgiveness, In the name of Christ. Amen.

Cork, Clayne and Ross (Ireland)

SUNDAY 17 MARCH UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination



Prayers for the Ukrainian community in every stitch...

There's a beautiful blue and yellow quilt hanging in the Ukrainian Club 'Kalyna' in Leicester that's a continual reminder of the compassion and prayers we offer to the people of Ukraine.

It's been lovingly hand-stitched by a faithful and faith-filled network of quilters, who regularly retreat at Launde Abbey, and felt called to show their solidarity and support in the midst of current struggles.

When the Ukraine was invaded, the challenge for so many people across the UK was, how can I help? This call to action felt particularly significant for Elaine Wyspianski, a residential house assistant at Launde Abbey, whose family know all too well the pain of war and displacement.

She says: "In my experience as a former fundraiser, I know firsthand how important it is to try and encourage and empower in helplessness – it's not simply about raising cash but engaging with our emotional selves in our giving" she says.

Elaine called upon Revd Claire Goode (serving Retreat Leader and former Chaplain of Launde Abbey) and her network of quilters to engage in

a project, using their creativity to each make 'a square' featuring the colours of the Ukrainian flag. Revd Claire agreed this would be an opportunity to show love, support, and prayer in every stitch, and when the squares were finished, she bound them together to make this stunning, complete quilt.

The intent was to raise money from the sale of the quilt, while highlighting the profile of the Ukrainian people's plight and continuing the cycle of prayer.

And it worked. A generous donation was offered by Myron and Ola Nykolyszyn for the completed quilt, which they've also gifted to the Ukrainian Club Kalyna in Leicester.

Gemma Starkings
PT&MD Communications Officer

Church in Wales:

Diocese of St David's, Bishop Dorrien Davies

The Church of Bangladesh

Church of Sweden:

*Diocese of Gothenburg,
Bishop Susanne Rappmann*

Scottish Episcopal Church:

*Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway,
Bishop Kevin Pearson*

MON 18 MARCH Diocese of Kiteto

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Costa Rica (Central America)

TUES 19 MARCH Roots IWC

Kat Gibson (Pio)

Pray for those who are new to the faith, and those engaging with our outreach work too, and for us all to grow in wisdom. Pray for the leadership as we discern and think about our long-term vision.

Coventry (England)

WED 20 MARCH House of Bishops Meeting

Cuba (Episcopal Church)

THURS 21 MARCH Diocesan Synod

Prayer for Synod

Almighty and ever living God, give wisdom and understanding, to the members of the Synod of this Diocese. Teach them in all things to seek first your honour and glory. May they perceive what is right, have courage to pursue it and grace to accomplish it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer Book for Australia

Cueibet (South Sudan)



FRI 22 MARCH Deanery of Framland

Area Dean: John Barr

Please pray for grace and wisdom as we continue to navigate the Minster Community formation process for North East Leicestershire, and as we discern what role the deanery might have in supporting parishes during this time of uncertainty and change.

Cuernavaca (Mexico)

SAT 23 MARCH PTO Clergy – Framland Deanery

Mary A'herne-Smith, Sue Bradley, Julie Hutchinson, Trevor Kirkman, Brian McAvoiy and Graham Spencer.

Cuttack (North India)



With a Christian vision of 'grounded, growing and grateful', it's a joy to see children as young as seven leading Collective Worship on any given school day in South Kilworth.

The CofE school has its own Pupil Worship Team, currently made up of eight children from years three through to six. They 'set up' the prayer table and Collective Worship every day, write prayers and lead their fellow pupils in praise, they take part in acting out Bible stories and meet regularly, living out the school's Christian vision and values through their care for each other and the world around them.

Kerry Willars, Head of School, is incredibly proud of her pupils. She says: "The children model our values daily, spotting issues in the community and through their curriculum work, and plan how to make a difference."

Most recently at Harvest, alongside their service in St Nicholas Church, the Pupil Worship Team decided to collect warm clothes to help those who might be cold this winter, as well as items for Lutterworth Foodbank.

When asked why they want to be on the Pupil Worship Team, the children's replies are inspiring...

"Having children as worship leaders shows children that God is standing with children and he is always with us throughout the day – you can do the day because he is standing next to you."

"Children can show they care for our Lord as much as grown-ups do."

"Younger children in the school can look up to the older children and if they have a question about God they can ask us."

Sharon March, Associate Minister in the Avon Swift Benefice, enjoys a close relationship with South Kilworth, supporting the children to lead worship themselves, while nurturing them in their discipleship, and walking alongside staff, pupils, and parents on their faith journeys.

Sharon is helping the school community express their spirituality in different ways, including through prayer. She says: "They have a small prayer space in the hall, they have the words of the Lord's Prayer on the wall in there too, and the staff are great at encouraging engagement with prayer spaces in each classroom."

Gemma Starkings
PT&MD Communications Officer

The Church of the Province of West Africa

Church of Sweden:

Diocese of Lund, Bishop Johan Tyrberg

Church of Ireland: *Diocese of Cashel, Ossory and Ferns, Bishop Adrian Wilkinson*

Church of England: *Diocese of Ely, vacancy – bishop of Ely, Bishop Dagmar Winter*

Reflections for Holy Week by The Venerable Claire Wood, Archdeacon of Loughborough:

'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately." They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it.

Mark 11:2-6

In Mark's gospel we join Jesus as he prepares the disciples for an encounter with bystanders. Strangers, who are unknown and yet whose generous and trusting response to their encounter with the disciples, provide the colt on which Jesus will travel to Jerusalem.

Lord we pray that our own journeys of faith, are filled with the same generosity as that of the bystanders. That such trust and fellowship shared with strangers, overcomes the fear and distrust which so often fragments humankind and separates humanity from the love of God. Amen.

Cyangugu (Rwanda)

TUES 26 MARCH

'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

Mark 12:5-8

Following Mary's gift of oil to Jesus, Judas is deeply unhappy and attacks her actions, yet Mark reveals his darker reason of personal gain. However, Jesus chooses to focus on his encounter with Mary revealing her actions as a blessing as he approaches his own death. Her time and courageous encounter, anointing him in readiness for his final days on earth.

Lord, we give thanks for the courageous actions of Mary, whose caring encounter and anointing of Christ, was grounded in the earthly present and future heaven. May we also share your balm and love bringing hope and peace to all who are encountering the nearness of death. Amen.

Cyprus and the Gulf (Jerusalem and the Middle East)

WED 27 MARCH

John 13:21-26

When hearing of Jesus' pending betrayal Simon Peter responds to the prompt from the disciple whom Jesus loved, and voices the question 'Lord, who is it?'. The friends, fellow travellers, companions, are overwhelmed by Christ's statement, and are shaken by its implications. Despite the subsequent identification of Judas by the dipping of bread, Jesus holds firm and roots the remaining disciples in the greater events yet to come.

Lord, as you shared a meal with your disciples, you revealed a friend's betrayal, a painful truth, in relationships that were broken. However, undiminished you continued to journey towards Jerusalem, focused on the salvation of all humanity. We pray for the healing of broken relationships, for individuals and countries that they may know your peace and reconciliation. Amen.

Daejeon (Korea)



THURS 28 MARCH Maundy Thursday

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand'. Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet'. Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' John 13: 7-8

Jesus in his encounter with Simon Peter states that 'unless I wash you, you have no part in me'. Simon Peter's response reveals his disquiet, the expected order of teacher/leader and disciple/follower, broken. For a share in Christ is only found in the acceptance of the labour of Jesus as leader and Saviour.

Lord we give thanks and embrace the loving gift found in your act of cleansing labour. We also pray for all who lead, that they may know the transforming love offered in this simple act, rooted in the offer of Salvation. Amen.



Dokota (Episcopal Church)

FRI 29 MARCH Good Friday

So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' They answered, 'Jesus of Nazareth'. Jesus replied, 'I am he'. Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, 'I am he', they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' And they said, 'Jesus of Nazareth'. Jesus answered, 'I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.' John 18:4-8

Jesus is forthright in his engagement with the soldiers and police, and declares that he is 'Jesus of Nazareth'. His pursuers unexpectedly step back and fall to the ground, but Jesus remains focused and says 'let these men go'. On this dark night Jesus intercedes bringing light seeking earthly salvation and release of the disciples, a precursor to the greater act to come.

Lord on this Good Friday, as we remember your crucifixion may the suffering and death of Jesus lighten the burdens of all who suffer. We pray for those who find themselves challenged, persecuted, or live in fear of arrest, and who are killed for their faith in Christ, may they their family and friends know your peace. Amen.



South Dakota (Episcopal Church)

SAT 30 MARCH Holy Saturday

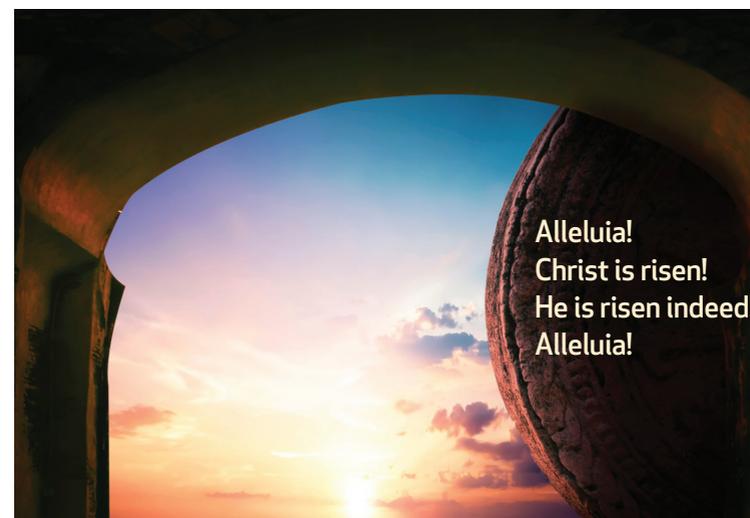
John 19:39-42

In the darkness and despair at the death of Christ, it is Joseph of Arimathea, a secret disciple, who breaks cover, meets and negotiates with Pilate. Aided by Nicodemus the body of the crucified Christ is placed safely in a tomb in keeping with Jewish custom.

Lord we give thanks for the courage of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, whose care and love of Jesus extended beyond his death. We also give thanks for all who accompany and care for others in times of waiting and darkness. May your light rest upon them. Amen.

Dallas (Episcopal Church)

SUNDAY 31 MARCH EASTER SUNDAY



The Resurrection of Jesus

Mark 16:1-8

¹⁶When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.

⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

And all that had been commanded them they told briefly to those around Peter. And afterwards Jesus himself sent out through them, from east to west, the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.

Prayer pointers:

- We thank You, Lord, for the triumph of Jesus over death, for His grave is empty and He is risen indeed!
- Lord, forgive us for the times we've fallen short, help us to turn away from sin and live lives that glorify You.
- Lord, let your resurrection power bring new life into every area of our lives, renewing our hearts and minds.
- Lord, give us the strength to love one another as Christ loved us, that we might bear witness to Your love in the world
- Father, grant that we may know the power of Christ's resurrection in our daily lives, helping us to overcome every challenge we face.

The Church in the Province of the West Indies

Church of Ireland:

Diocese of Armagh, Archbishop John McDowell

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:

Diocese of Funen, Bishop Mads Davidsen

MON 1 APRIL

Diocese of Trichy

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Reflections for East Week by The Venerable Richard Worsfold, Archdeacon of Leicester:

So they hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

In Matthew's Gospel account, not only the women leaving the tomb but also the soldiers guarding it are filled with fear. And yet for the women their fear is first mixed with joy as the new resurrection reality begins to dawn and then fear is banished in meeting the risen Lord. Alleluia!

Risen Lord, thank you for your resurrection power which casts out fear. May that same power give courage to our sisters and brothers who risk their lives this day in following you. **Amen.**

Damatur - Nigeria

TUES 2 APRIL

Christ and Mary Magdalene - Albert Edelfeit 1890



Jesus asked Mary, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

Mary was lost without Jesus and deeply grieving the apparent removal of his body from the tomb. So much so that she could not at first recognise the voice that reached out to her in her grief – until He spoke her name.

Risen Lord, thank you that you reach out continually with your saving love to each of us at our deepest point of need; may the hope and promise of your resurrection life come also to those we know who grieve today.

Amen.

Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania)

WED 3 APRIL

Christ at Emmaus - Rembrandt



He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

Cleopas and his companion were so downcast that they could not connect together the jigsaw pieces of the events in Jerusalem to form the resurrection picture that would fulfil their hopes of Jesus as the saving Messiah. But then the questioning stranger travelling with them broke bread in their home and they realised Jesus had been with them all along.

Risen Lord, thank you that through your death and resurrection we are never separated from your love. May the true knowledge of your unbreakable love break through to those who are downcast today. **Amen.**

Davao - Philippines

THURS 4 APRIL

Jesus said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.

The disciples in the barred upper room are so traumatized by the crucifixion and reported empty tomb that they doubt who is right before their eyes, until they are drawn to the physical reality of Jesus' pierced hands and feet.

Risen Lord, thank you that your cross and resurrection roots your saving love in our world of sight and sound and touch. May that same love be known by those with doubts and anxieties today.

Amen.

St Davids (Wales)

FRI 5 APRIL

Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

The disciples already believed in Jesus' resurrection and yet were still tempted to seek reassurance on their third meeting with the risen Jesus. We too can be reassured and nourished in our faith by the power of the Holy Spirit through the gifts of prayer, scripture and sacrament.

Risen Lord, thank you for sending your Spirit to strengthen our faith in you. May your Spirit sustain also our sisters and brothers in Christ for whom we have concern this day. **Amen.**

Delaware (Episcopal Church)

SAT 6 APRIL

Jesus said to the disciples, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

We are only able to read these words today because those first disciples were faithful in responding to the commission of the risen Jesus to share the good news of his saving death and resurrection. We have that same commission and it extends to the whole of created order which includes our stewardship of it.

Risen Lord, thank you for entrusting us with the good news of your unconditional love for all. May your Holy Spirit transform us to reflect the good news we share, in our loving service of others and in our practical care for your world. **Amen.**

Delhi (North India)



Everyday Faith-Sharing

Last year, I received a WhatsApp message from an unknown number in India, and it turned out to be a former student from a Hotel Management College where I taught. He spent two months looking and enquiring about me in the college, finally he could get hold of my number and messaged me. He was excited to share his joy of following Jesus and his powerful experience of God's love and grace in everyday life.

Indeed, it was heartwarming to hear about his transformed life; new challenges of being a new believer in a society where family and friends can discourage and disappoint. (2 Timothy 3:12).

He wanted me to know that, how much he appreciated the faith conversations I had with him during his initial days of following Jesus. It assured me that even the little conversations can leave a lasting impact on someone's life. It was a great reminder to be open and willing to share our faith with the people around us (2 Timothy 4:2).

I was humbled, grateful and joyful to be his pastoral support and to disciple him to be deeper rooted in this new Christian journey. He trusts God more than anything. As Christians, we need to support and encourage each other in our walk with Christ.

God is always at work (Rev 3:20), and it's amazing to see how he can use us (Eph 2:10) to bring his love and light into other people's lives. We should always be ready to have these little faith conversations, as the Holy Spirit prompts us, and be a part of God's plan to bring his love and grace to Leicestershire where nations & cultures live together.

- Pray that we as followers of Jesus may open to the Holy Spirit to have those little conversations about our faith & hope on Jesus to the people around us.
- Pray for those who are being persecuted because of their decision to follow Jesus.
- Pray that we as a Church will be more open to welcome anyone who is willing to follow Jesus.

(Michael) Jawahar B Ravuri
Intercultural Ministry Enabler

The Episcopal / Anglian Province of Alexandria

Church of Sweden: *Diocese of Uppsala,*
Archbishop Martin Modéus,
Bishop Karin Johannesson

Church in Wales: *Diocese of Llandaff,*
Bishop Mary Stallard

MON 8 APRIL Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

Bishop's Council Residential at Launde Abbey

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Derby (England)

TUES 9 APRIL The East Vale of Belvoir Parishes of Barkestone-le-Vale, Bottesford, Muston, Plungar & Redmile

Bishop's Council Residential at Launde Abbey

Monica Judson (C - GFM), Judith Wells (R), John Bartlett (R), Lisa Smith (R)
Bottesford & Redmile CE Primary Schools

We give thanks for the continuing work with young families and schools here in our five parishes; for our Growing Faith Minister, our Lay Team and all who contribute to the daily life of our churches.

Derry and Raphoe (Ireland)

WED 10 APRIL The Parishes of Ab Kettleby, Asfordby, Grimston, Holwell, Saxelby with Shoby, Six Hills & Wartnaby

Mark Carroll (C), Lorna Wright (R), Roger Tucker (R), Paul Ainge (R), Fiona Bryant (AM)

We pray for strengthened bonds between our churches as we work together towards a Minster Community structure. We ask your prayers for the Holwell church PCC as they strive to rebuild their church as a community resource. We ask your prayers for all those who willingly give so much time and resources for our mission.

Dhaka (Bangladesh)

THURS 11 APRIL The West Vale of Belvoir Parishes of Harby, Hose, Long Clawson, Nether Broughton, Old Dalby & Stathern

Paul Towns (M i-c Harby), Simon Shouler (GL), Mel Oldershaw (PA), Jo de Graaf (PA), Trevor Kirkman (PTO), Sr Mary Aherne-Smith (PTO)
Harby, Hose, Long Clawson, Old Dalby CE Primary Schools

Thank God for the resources we have in our mini-minster, for loyal congregations and all who exercise ministry in many forms. Pray for our chaplaincy work at Dove Cottage, now part of LOROS, and at Belvoir Castle, and for many new initiatives to meet people on the edge.

San Diego (Episcopal Church)

FRI 12 APRIL The South Croxton Benefice and the Burrough Hill Benefice

In vacancy. Jane Walker (C)

Neil Stothers was Priest-in-charge from 2017, and sadly died on the 13th October 2023 aged 63. He sent in this prayer some time ago, by Newman:

'He does nothing in vain; He may prolong life, He may shorten it; Let me be thy blind instrument. I ask not to see - I ask not to know- I ask simply to be used. Amen.'

Divine Hope (Angola)

SAT 13 APRIL

Dogura (Papua New Guinea)

SUNDAY 14 APRIL



Reflection on the Minster Community Formation Process

For many reasons being part of forming Minster Communities, whether as a church rep, a church leader or a central staff member is tough. One of the things that is hard going is the time commitment, the meetings, the conversations that need to take place. On top of often already very busy lives and jobs, this can feel like a burden. Then there is the whole matter of change in itself, which many can find unsettling and anxiety-inducing. The process asks us to hold a mirror up to ourselves and asks what the current reality is in many aspects of our church life. We don't always like what we see, and that can be painful. This process asks us to put things down in order to focus our time and our resource, on mission. And with that can come a sense of loss.

I know I am not painting a very pretty picture of being in this process. But the hope in this process doesn't come from the process itself, or from the Minster Community framework. It comes from God. From the glimpse of God's glory that we see when we take a step back and look around us. There is beauty in the work that our churches do, day in and day out. There are relationships that are forming as folks go

through the process. The fear of change, the weariness of busyness and the lament of things lost are all things that we need to take to God. The hope we have though Jesus is bigger than all of that stuff. Does our faith get rid of all of the difficulties? No. But it does mean that we are not facing it alone and we know that God is good, even when other things don't feel great!

So, my prayer in this time of transition is that we all feel God close by, that we remember to bring everything to God and keep God as part of these conversations so that we can glimpse glory and build on it together.

Beth Cluer

Senior Parish Transition and Facilitation Lead

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.

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa (New Zealand)

*The Anglican Church in Aotearoa
(New Zealand)*

Church of England:

*Diocese of Derby, Bishop Libby Lane, Bishop
Malcolm Macnaughton*

Church of Ireland:

Diocese of Clogher, Bishop Ian Ellis

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:

*Diocese of Aalborg,
Bishop Thomas Reinholdt Rasmussen*

MON 15 APRIL Diocese of Kiteto

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Doko (Nigeria)

TUES 16 APRIL Archbishops and Diocesan Bishops Residential

The Benefice of South Framland and The High Framland Parishes
David Cowie (C); Jean Lee (R)
Croxton Kerrial CE Primary School, Wymondham CE Primary School

Please pray: for our very small ministry team, spread across two large rural benefices; for Barbara Guntrip, who is training for licensed ministry; and for our primary schools, that our ministry with them will continue to flourish.

Dominican Republic (Episcopal Church)

WED 17 APRIL Archbishops and Diocesan Bishops Residential

PTO outside of the Diocese

Rupert Allen, Kevin Ashby, Paul Botting, Claire Goode, Stephen Heygate, Peter Hibbert, David White, Michael Wilson and Alan Humphrey

Dornakal (South India)

THURS 18 APRIL

Please pray for the work of DFEMA (Diocesan Forum for Ethnic Minority Anglicans) and the Racial Equity Unit, that through their support and advocacy, our diocese can be somewhere where the gifts of all people, of all backgrounds and ethnicities, can flourish.

Down and Dromore (Ireland)

FRI 19 APRIL

Please pray for the Diocese's Net Zero group, who are working to neutralise our carbon emissions by 2030 – that they may have wisdom and insight into what changes need to be made and how.

Dublin and Glendalough (Ireland)

SAT 20 APRIL

Diocesan Strategic Priorities – Eco Communities

The Church of England has committed to becoming net zero by 2030, and as part of that, we are striving to reduce the environmental impact of our buildings and activities, and encouraging worshipping communities to become Eco Churches.

O God, we pray for justice and fairness for those worst hit by our changing climate. We know people living in extreme poverty around the world are worst hit by the climate crisis but have done the least to contribute to it, and have the fewest resources to cope with its effects. We ask for your mercy and your wisdom to become better stewards of your creation, through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Duk (South Sudan)

VALUE OUR VOTE

citizens
Leicester & Leicestershire



The UK will, at some point this year, go to the polls in arguably one of the most hotly contested elections in living memory.

Leicester Citizens, a community-organising alliance which includes members from the Diocese of Leicester, have created a campaign, Value Our Vote, to encourage people to register to vote, get the right Voter ID and to get out and use their vote on Polling Day when it comes.

John 13:33-35 Jesus instructs us to “Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other.”

Luke 10:27 Jesus says we must “Love your neighbour as yourself”. In Matthew 25:45 Jesus was saying “How you treat the hungry, thirsty, immigrant, poor, sick and prisoner is how you treat me”.

God of justice and mercy, please help us to take our responsibilities seriously and choose our leaders wisely, for the good of all in society when election day comes.

Help us to understand how you unconditionally love us, Lord Jesus. Please bring opportunities my way to follow you, to treat others with love and care.

Lord, help us to encourage our friends and families to register, to have the right voter ID, and, when the day comes, to go and vote with the love and compassion for others at the forefront of our voting.

Wendy Bebbington
Member of Leicester Citizens

The Anglican Church of Australia
Church of England: Diocese of Blackburn,
Bishop Philip North, Bishop Jill Duff

Scottish Episcopal Church:
Diocese of Brechin, Bishop Andrew Swift

The Lutheran Church in Great Britain:
Bishop Paulina Hlawiczka-Trotman

MON 22 APRIL Diocese of Wyoming

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Dunedin (New Zealand)

TUES 23 APRIL

Every Tuesday, the national Church hosts a prayer gathering over Zoom for the doubling of the number of children and young people in our churches.

Loving God, we bring to you the children, young people and families of our nation. We pray for those who already know they are your children. Please protect them, bless them and keep them firm in their faith.

We pray for those who would like to find out more about you. Please provide ways for them to do that and help us all to play our part. We pray for those who know little or nothing about Christian faith.

Please stir up curiosity in them to find out more and in your mercy give them encounters with you that transform their lives. We pray that the goal of doubling the number of children and active young disciples across the Church of England by 2030 will be reached with joy. Please give us courage, faith and hope as we continue to pray. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Dunkwa-on-Offin (West Africa)

WED 24 APRIL



To help reach the goal of doubling the number of children and young people in our churches, Bishop Martyn chairs a national project board which aims to see 30,000 more children’s and youth ministers in the Church of England.

Please pray for more people to hear God’s calling to walk alongside children and young people in their journey of faith, and for this ministry to grow many more disciples across the UK.

Durgapur (North India)

THURS 25 APRIL

Please pray for our facilitators involved in Minster Community formation discussions – that they can continue to have the grace, wisdom and understanding to bring people together and find a common calling for mission.

Durham (England)

FRI 26 APRIL

Dutse (Nigeria)

SAT 27 APRIL

East Kerala (South India)

SUN 28 APRIL

We give you thanks God, for hearing all of our prayers over the last four months, for all the words you have spoken to us, and all the mercy you have shown us. **Amen**

East Kerala (South India)



Diocese of
Leicester