

PRAYER DIARY

JANUARY - APRIL 2025



Diocese of
Leicester

Launde Abbey is a retreat house in the heart of the country with God at its centre

Retreats

at Launde Abbey 2025

For more information and to book please call or see our website

Launde Abbey, East Norton
Leicestershire LE7 9XB

JANUARY 2025

- 10 - 12 EPIPHANY RETREAT: *In the Beauty of Holiness* with Revd John Rackley
- 20 - 24 TEXTILES RETREAT with Revd Claire Goode
- 24 - 26 RESTING IN GOD Weekend Meditation Retreat with Chris Whittington
- 29 - 31 INHABITING THE BIBLE THROUGH STORY Retreat with Paula Gooder

FEBRUARY

- 07 - 10 LIVING WITH LOSS with Abi May
- 10 - 12 PRAYING WITH POETRY with Amy Scott Robinson

MARCH

- 21 - 23 BEGINNERS RETREAT with the Launde Abbey Team
- 25 - 28 HEART OF MY OWN HEART with John-Francis Friendship

APRIL

- 10 - 13 BEGINNERS INDIVIDUALLY GUIDED RETREAT with Rhona Knight
- 14 - 17 HOLY WEEK with the Launde Abbey Community
- 22 - 25 LOOK AT THE BIRDS RETREAT with Mark Winter

MAY

- 05 - 08 IN-BETWEEN TIMES with Emily Owen
- 19 - 23 GARDENING RETREAT with Karen & the Launde Abbey Team
- 19 - 23 ICON PAINTING RETREAT with Peter Murphy

JUNE

- 02 - 06 THE SOUND OF MUSINGS with Bryony Wood

JULY

- 14 - 18 INTO THE SILENT LAND with Chris Whittington
- 21 - 24 MINDFULNESS RETREAT with Nicola Smith
- 22 - 25 THE SPACE BETWEEN: Contemplative Photography Retreat with Morna Simpson



Launde Abbey
prayer • hospitality • community • sanctuary

FOREWORD FROM THE BISHOP OF LOUGHBOROUGH



One of my earliest memories involves flying kites with my friends Raja and Govindamma at the leprosy hospital in Bengaluru, where I spent most of my childhood. Their parents lived with the condition of leprosy, and my mother served as their nurse. My mother did three things that taught me what prayer is: she turned up, interacted, and interceded.

My mother chose to live in a leprosy hospital because she glimpsed a God who turns up in places where others won't, can't, or choose not to. She interacted with the patients because she witnessed Jesus doing so in the pages of the gospel as he touched people suffering from leprosy. Early in the mornings, I often found my mother on her knees in prayer, interceding, and when I was a teenager, I asked her why, and she said she didn't know where else to turn. She stood in the gap on behalf of ostracised people – she interceded.

For this year's Bishop's Lent Appeal, we are focusing on the work of The Leprosy Mission, a Christian organisation leading the fight against leprosy. We invite you to turn your hearts and minds towards their work on the beautiful island of Sri Lanka. With the support of The Leprosy Mission, Christians in Sri Lanka tirelessly work to provide healing and hope to those affected by leprosy. Their work, which focuses on training health workers, raising awareness, and advocating for the rights of people with leprosy, is a cause that is deeply personal to me. This work reminds me of my mother, who taught me to pray to Jesus and, like Jesus, who turned up, interacted, and stood in the gap.

+ Saju Loughborough

+Saju Muthalaly
Bishop of Loughborough



**The
Leprosy
Mission**

Welcome to the new edition of the Diocese of Leicester Prayer Diary for January to April 2025. This edition takes us on a wonderful journey of revelation through Epiphany and Candlemas, onto the anguish of Lent followed by the glorious celebration of Easter!

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.

We have also added on a Monday the places on the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle from the World Council of Churches: these will be prefixed by **EPC**. In addition to Principal Feasts, Holy Days & Festivals, we have also added Lesser Festivals and also Commemorations in italics from the Common Worship Lectionary.

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;
LAM = Locally Authorised Minister.

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.

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/

We are very grateful to Revd Canon Brian Davis for his work on gathering parish prayer requests, to Peter Collett, Gemma Starkings and Steve O'Rourke for their on-going assistance and to all our contributors, as always, in this edition.

Particular thanks to Rowena Bass, Rector at Aylestone St Andrew with St James (Benefice) & Alison Iliffe, Team Vicar – The Parish of the Transfiguration, St Nicholas and St Hugh (Part of the Market Harborough Anglican Resourcing Churches Team), for the Holy & Easter Week reflections in this edition.



WED 1 JAN

Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

Almighty God,
whose blessed Son was circumcised
in obedience to the law for our sake
and given the Name that is above every name:
give us grace faithfully to bear his Name,
to worship him in the freedom of the Spirit,
and to proclaim him as the Saviour of the world;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



Kwoi (Nigeria)

THURS 2 JAN

Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, bishops, teachers of the faith, 379 and 389
Seraphim, monk, spiritual guide, 1833

Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, first Indian Anglican Bishop, evangelist, 1945

Emmanuel, God with us, making your home in every culture and community on earth: We thank you for raising up your servant Samuel Azariah as the first indigenous bishop in India. Grant that we may be strengthened by his witness to your love without concern for class or caste, and by his labours for the unity of the Church in India, that people of many languages and cultures might with one voice give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Kyoto (Japan)

FRI 3 JAN City of Leicester Deanery

Area Dean: Liz Wilson, Assistant AD's: Adrian Jones & Rob Hinsley, Lay Chair: Les Mitchelmore

We give thanks for the diversity of the city and for the different worshipping communities that proclaim the kingdom of God in Leicester.

Please pray for our future discernment as Minster Communities as we enter phase two of the conversation process.

Kyushu (Japan)

SAT 4 JAN

City of Leicester Deanery PTO: Pip Berry, Derek Brown, Walter Burleigh, David Clark, Beverley Davies, Arthur Deegan, Aron Donaldson, Peter Folks, Lynda Foot, Stephen Foster, + Robert Freeman, Janet Gasper, Hannah Hall, Alan Hawker, Peter Hobson, Rajni Kaneria, Susan Leighton, Aphrodite McCullough, Barry Naylor, Barbara Neill, Chris Oxley, Alison Roche, Simon Stevens, Peter Taylor, Philip White & Tom Wilson.

Lafia (Nigeria)



Matthew 2:1-12

(New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised)

The Visit of the Wise Men

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, *'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'* 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6 *"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel!"*

7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, *'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.'* 9 When they had heard of the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



*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.***

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord God, the bright splendour
whom the nations seek:
may we, who with the wise men have
been drawn by your light, discern the glory
of your presence in your Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Church of England:

Diocese of London, Bishop Sarah Mullally,
Bishop Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy, Bishop Emma Ineson,
Bishop Anderson Jeremiah,
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

The Church in Wales



Carl Jung once said, *"Hurry is not of the devil; hurry is the devil."* The faster our pace of life becomes (and the more we surround ourselves with distractions) the harder it becomes to see the holy amongst the ordinary, which is why the writer Dallas Willard used to encourage his readers to *"ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life."*

Yet the moment we slow down and begin to be attentive we find that God is remarkably present — not only in grand, mountaintop experiences, but in the smallest moments of everyday life. A kind word, a beautiful sunrise, the gift of friendship: these are all opportunities to notice the fingerprints of the divine.

The coming of the Magi is a masterpiece of storytelling about slowing down. The story begins at a fast lick: the wise men travel from the east to Jerusalem in a single verse! Their conversations with Herod are propelled by the energy of menace. But then everything goes into slow motion. The star stops over the place where the child lay. The Magi bow gently before the quiet mother and baby. Gifts are opened, named, presented, one by one.

And as they draw into stillness, they become aware of the presence of God made human, the sacred world breaking into ordinary life. This attentiveness, this ability to stop, draw breath and open our eyes, is an essential spiritual skill. Which is why retreat houses like Launde Abbey are so passionate about fostering it in the lives of all who come to us.

Please pray for the Abbey over the coming months:

- for a fruitful programme of retreats, quiet days and other events;
- for the ministry of the clergy and our College of Chaplains;
- for our partnerships with Rural Ministries, Renovare, and the School for Contemplative Life; and
- for our staff, volunteers and trustees as they work together to offer the welcome of Christ to all who visit us.

Revd Chris Webb
Deputy Warden

MON 6 JAN The Epiphany

The Diocese of Trichy: Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

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 here at the Martyrs as we continue our work to shape and to grow an Intercultural and Intergenerational church community. Pray especially for our ongoing partnership with Shaftesbury Junior School nearby.

EPC: Middle East, Iran, Iraq and Syria

Lagos (Nigeria)

TUES 7 JAN St Chad, Leicester

Martin Court, Clare King (C)

Please pray for our shared life, witness and ministry in our community. *Lagos Mainland (Nigeria)*

WED 8 JAN

St Peter, Highfields and St Philip Leicester

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

Please pray for Josh in his final months before ordination, our Saturday and Wednesday feeds, the local schools and our reflections and plans for this year's neighbour activities, as we build on the Family FunDays and pop up events from last year.

Lagos West (Nigeria)

THURS 9 JAN

St Denys, Evington

In vacancy, Geraldine Moulden (R), Sian Rigby (R)

Our Vicar and our Curate have both recently left; we are in lament. But one of our Wardens, Kimberley, continues her journey of discernment for ministry; cause for celebration. Please pray for us, seeking God's guidance, especially regarding Minster Communities.

Lahore (Pakistan)

FRI 10 JAN

St Philip's Centre for Study & Engagement in a Multifaith Society: Tom Wilson, Riaz Ravat, Maureen Hebblewhite, Barbara Cairns, Ramil Chauhan, Viv Froggatt & Cathryn Parsons.

The St Philip's Centre works with people of all religions and none. 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.

William Laud, Archbishop, 1645

Lainya (South Sudan)

SAT 11 JAN Human Trafficking Awareness Day

Mary Slessor, missionary, 1915.

Her last words were a prayer in the Efik (Nigerian) language: "O Abasi, sana mi yok." (O God, release me!). She is remembered in Nigeria as the "Mother of All the Peoples." *Diocese on the Lake (Nigeria)*

SUNDAY 12 JANUARY THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST



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.

Construction work on the new Heritage & Learning Centre, a striking extension to the Cathedral, is nearing completion. This has been a very challenging project, but the end is in sight and the centre will open early in 2025, providing an exhibition gallery with immersive interpretation, a flexible learning space for school children and community groups, and visitor WCs.

A key part of the project involves development and delivery of an exciting programme of events, exhibitions and activities. This programme is well underway – see the Cathedral website for further information.

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 and preparing for the opening of the Heritage & Learning Centre.
- All those delivering the 3-year programme of events, activities and engagement.
- Ongoing efforts to ensure the sustainable operation of the Cathedral going forwards.

Simon Bentley

Project Director for

Leicester Cathedral Revealed

simon.bentley@leicestercofe.org

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, Bishop Sophie Jelley,

vacancy – Bishop of Warwick.

Province of West Africa

MON 13 JAN Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.
Give thanks for all staff across the Diocese as we express our gratitude.

Hilary, bishop, teacher of the faith, 367 **Kentigern (Mungo), missionary bishop, 603**

EPC: Arabian Peninsula

George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends (Quakers), 1961

O Lord, baptize our hearts into a sense of the conditions and needs of all people. Amen.

Lango (Uganda)

TUES 14 JAN

St Mary & St Barnabas, Humberstone and Christchurch, Thurnby Lodge
In vacancy. Viv Froggatt (AM), Evernice Tirivanhu (AM)

Please pray for continued strength, wisdom and vision for our lay-led congregations – help us to be guided by the Holy Spirit and grounded in love. Give thanks for opportunities to welcome schools into St Mary's and the initiative to provide a warm welcoming place for those who need it in Thurnby Lodge.

West Lango (Uganda)

WED 15 JAN PTO & Retired Clergy gathering at St Martins House

The Resurrection, Leicester

In vacancy. Sister Beverley CSF, Sister Christine CSF; Chrispal Anand (Reader)

St Peter's, Belgrave CE Primary School

Pray for guidance, courage and wisdom as we move into the future as a worshipping, welcoming Christian presence in our richly diverse area of Leicester.

We give thanks for the help and support of local clergy in our interregnum.

Lantang (Nigeria)

THURS 16 JAN

All Saints, Belgrave **Sunny George (C)**

Please pray for our shared life, witness and ministry in our community.

Lebombo (Mozambique)

FRI 17 JAN

Belgrave St Peter's Community Church BMO (Bishops mission order) **Anne Scott (AM)**

Please pray for us to bring the love of Jesus to our community as we continue to share practical love through our community cupboard, and to see Jesus's transforming love bring hope as we pray for people.

Charles Gore, bishop, founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932

Anthony of Egypt, hermit, abbot, 356

Leeds (England)

SAT 18 JAN Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Day 1: The fatherhood and motherhood of God who rules the universe.

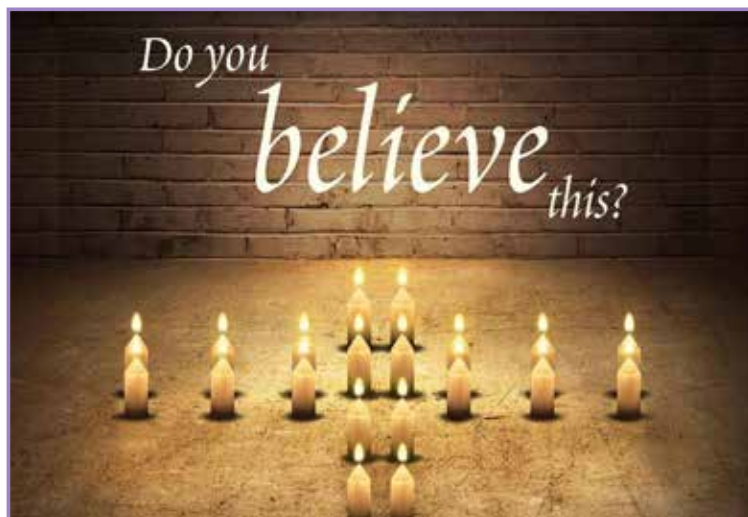
Resources for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025

<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2025/>

Amy Carmichael, spiritual writer, 1951

My Father, quiet me, til in thy holy presence, hushed,
I think thy thoughts with Thee. Amen.

Leicester (England)



Day 2: Creation as God's work.

Resources for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025

<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2025/>

At the heart of our reflections for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is the question posed by Jesus to Martha: 'Do you believe this?' (John 11:26). This same question resonated throughout the deliberations of the first Ecumenical Council, meeting in Nicaea in 325, which gathered Christian communities from around the world to strengthen their relationships as the Church of Jesus Christ.

Read in isolation the question might appear as a stark challenge, but from the Gospel story it is clear that the words of Jesus are spoken in love and experienced as invitation as well as challenge. Similarly, while the Council of Nicaea was not without its challenges as a wounded and scattered Church sought to discern the truth of the Gospel message, there was an obvious desire to deepen connection and belonging and to live faithfully as disciples of Christ.

Reflecting on these moments we are reminded that the gift of our faith brings both support and challenge. The 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea this year has been embraced with a hopeful enthusiasm in the global Church and in ecumenical bodies, inspiring a wide range of events and dialogues. It is valued as a significant moment of shared history across the different Christian traditions, despite the many ways in which our paths may have diverged in the years since. Some have remained closer to the Church envisaged at Nicaea with the Nicene Creed continuing to be of central importance as a statement of faith, while others have adopted non-creedal models of Church placing greater emphasis on other forms of expression of shared Christian faith. Looking back together from our different perspectives presents an opportunity to deepen understanding and relationships, strengthening our unity in diversity.

While recognising the value of this looking back, we have also been conscious of the need to reflect on how we are responding to Christ's question in the circumstances of today,

considering as we do so what we might learn from the example and experience of Nicaea. An important question in that regard, and one to which this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity resource seeks to respond is: what is the relevance to the life and mission of the local church?

There is an opportunity to celebrate and draw strength and encouragement from the gift of our shared faith. In these troubled and turbulent times, we can take heart from the endurance of that faith. The Church that gathered in Nicaea was one that had been shaken and wounded by violence and persecution and was therefore close to the suffering of humanity. It was presented with an opportunity for dialogue with the political power which posed difficult choices about how best to share the Good News of the Gospel as faithful disciples of Christ, whose Kingdom is not of this world. In today's polarised world, when trust in the willingness of political powers and authorities, including the Church, to protect the most vulnerable has been undermined, how might a renewal of our commitment to Christian unity contribute to positive change?

Our polarised and fracturing world is in need of a new vision for peace, centred on the recognition of our inter-connectedness and shared humanity. As we gather to mark this anniversary, we have an opportunity to ask the hard questions about what may be getting in the way of our shared identity as Christians and our collective witness to the world. We are reminded of the transformative power of our faith which gives hope in suffering through the promise that all will be renewed in Christ.

Dr Nicola Brady
*General Secretary,
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland*

churches
together

IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Prayer

*God of our journeyings,
Christ of our shorelines,
Spirit of endless horizons,
beckon us towards unity.
Challenge us to step out of our upper rooms
and safe spaces,
to be bringers of light and peace.
Ibue us with the light of your love,
reconciling us to ourselves,
to each other and to you
when we confront the scandal of division.
Graft peace, love and compassion into
our mission and discipleship.
Bind with peace any broken limb
that we might go into the world
and live the way of Jesus
for the sake of all creation.*

Amen.

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

Province of the West Indies

MON 20 JAN Diocese of Kiteto

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

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

- Day 3: The Incarnation of the Son.

Resources for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025

<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2025/>

Richard Rolle, spiritual writer, 1349

Direct our hearts, O Gracious God, and inspire our minds; that like your servants Richard Rolle, Walter Hilton, and Margery Kempe, we might pass through the cloud of unknowing until we behold your glory face to face; in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

EPC: Cyprus, Greece, Turkey

Lesotho (Southern Africa)



TUES 21 JAN

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

- Day 4: The Paschal Mystery: Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

Resources for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025

<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2025/>

Agnes, child martyr, 304

Almighty and everlasting God, you choose those whom the World deems powerless to put the powerful to shame: Grant us so to cherish the memory of your youthful martyr Agnes, that we may share her pure and steadfast faith in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Lexington (Episcopal Church)

WED 22 JAN

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

- Day 5: The Holy Spirit, breath of God.

Resources for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025

<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2025/>

Vincent of Saragossa, deacon, martyr, 304

Almighty God, whose deacon Vincent, upheld by thee, was not terrified by threats nor overcome by torments: Strengthen us, we beseech thee, to endure all adversity with invincible and steadfast faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liberia (West Africa)

THURS 23 JAN

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

- Day 6: The Church: Community of believers.

Resources for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025

<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2025/>

St Theodore of Canterbury

In vacancy.

Pray for us, a small, mainly elderly church that we may continue to support the Samaritan's purse, raising funds through a 'ladies night' selling crafts, jewellery etc; supporting 'The Bridge' providing food parcels, and supporting water aid. May we continue to be a welcoming, friendly church.

Lichfield (England)



FRI 24 JAN

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

- Day 7: Baptism into the Death and Resurrection of the Lord.

Resources for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025

<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2025/>

Francis de Sales, bishop, teacher of the faith, 1622

Be at peace. Do not look forward in fear to the changes of life; rather look to them with full hope as they arise. God, whose very own you are, will deliver you from out of them. He has kept you hitherto, and He will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will bury you in his arms. **Amen.**

International Day of Education (See 26th January for article)

Lincoln (England)

SAT 25 JAN

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

- Day 8: Waiting for the Kingdom.

Resources for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025

<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2025/>

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.**

Litoral Ecuador (Episcopal Church)



Racial diversity, and even more importantly, equity is a real priority for us here in the Diocese of Leicester. It's a key strand of the DBE's strategic plan for 2025-2028. Recently, the education team has been working with trust leaders and their school improvement teams to think about how we might support this priority in the lives of all our schools and we hope to share our learning across the diocese.

It's important that we support school leaders and staff to understand why racial equity is so important from a Christian perspective. I shared with our headteachers last term how we might consider the passage in Matthew's gospel where Jesus meets and speaks to a Syrophenician woman in a way that at first glance appears to be rude at worst and dismissive at best. If we can look beyond the apparent slight Jesus gives to the woman, I am struck by a woman who doesn't give up - despite her disadvantage. She sees that she is disadvantaged by her race and by her gender, yet she persists. I can almost imagine her saying, 'how long must this injustice carry on, Lord?' Jesus then responds with a 'yes' and a word of healing for her daughter. And, in so doing, Jesus makes it abundantly clear that the love of God is for all humanity.

This message was brought to life for me recently when I heard the track We PRAY by Coldplay.

Chris Martin, the lead singer and songwriter has explained that the song simply would not work without the inclusion of performers from Global Majority Heritage backgrounds. That is the prayer of the Diocesan Board of Education - that our school staff, governance teams and our schools' curriculum plans truly exemplify a Christ-like vision of racial equity. Please join us in that prayer.

*Merciful God,
you are righteous and love justice:
stir the hearts of your people that,
rejoicing in our diversity,
we may repent of the wrongs of the past,
and, by your grace, seek the peaceable kingdom
of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

Canon Carolyn Shoyer
Diocesan Director of Education

Church of England:

Diocese of Birmingham, Bishop Michael Volland,
vacancy – Bishop of Aston

Church of Ireland:

Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross,
Bishop Paul Colton

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:

Diocese of Elsinore, Bishop Peter Birch

The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria

MON 27 JAN Diocese of Wyoming

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

Holocaust Memorial Day Holocaust Memorial Day Trust | HMD 2025 Theme

Eternal God, you hold all of our days in your hands. On this day, we come before you to remember the victims of the Holocaust. We lament the loss of the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust, the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution, and victims of other genocides. May our minds be clear and attentive to their memory and our hearts be moved to bear witness to their lives. Today, help us to remember and recognise the sanctity of each human life, that all people are made in Your image. One day, we pray that genocide and hatred will be no more, and that love will triumph over evil. In our prayers and in our actions, help us to show this love in the world today. Amen.

EPC: North Africa

Liverpool (England)

TUES 28 JAN

Thomas Aquinas, priest, philosopher, teacher of the faith, 1274

Liwolo (South Sudan)

WED 29 JAN All Saints, Scraptoft & Netherhall

Martin Court (C)

Pray for our student in contextual training, Michal, as he continues his final year of training before hopeful ordination in the summer. For the new Minster Community process we are becoming part of.

Llandaff (Wales)

THURS 30 JAN World Leprosy Day

See +Saju's welcome and the article on page 22 by Gemma Starkings.

St Stephen, North Evington

Irving Richards (C)

Please pray for our shared life, witness and ministry in our community.

Charles, king and martyr, 1649

Lodwar (Kenya)

FRI 31 JAN

John Bosco, priest, founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888

King of kings and Lord of lords, making the true light to shine: lighten our darkness now and evermore that with our lips and in our lives we may praise you; for you are our God, now and for ever. Amen.

Stocking Farm and Beaumont Leys

Rob Hinsley (C), Stuart Voce (Curate), Liz Smith (PA)

Please pray for our continued engagement with the schools in our parish, for the work of our Food Hub at Christ the King together with our hopes to make St. Luke's step free.

Lokoja (Nigeria)

SAT 1 FEB

Brigid, abbess, c.525

Almighty Father, by the ministry of your blessed servant Brigid you strengthened the Church in Ireland: As we give thanks for her life of devoted service, inspire us with new life and light, fill us with your generous Spirit, and give us perseverance to serve you all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Lomega (South Sudan)



Race Equality Week is an annual, UK-wide initiative that encourages organisations to address race inequality and accelerate change.

This is a significant period within our calendars, as it sets aside time for us to consider and address the inequalities faced by the least represented, as well as the most vulnerable and marginalised within our spheres.

This inequality may not always be what we envision. However, this week gives us a unique opportunity to reflect on how and where people are impacted. For example:

- Are there limited opportunities or a lack of progression for certain people within our workplace and congregations?
- Do we include and acknowledge a variety of viewpoints and experiences when making decisions in our Diocese?
- Do our congregations reflect the racial demographics of our local areas?

These are not questions to create feelings of censor, guilt or shame. Instead, they are opportunities for us to reach our God-given mandate of unity, fellowship and justice, to start conversations, identify areas of change and create relationships that empower us all.

Jesus was often the champion of those who were ostracised, voiceless or denied justice. Whether it was people from other nations, women or the poor, Christ showed us that where we have power, positions or the ability to perceive inequality – we also have a duty to be part of the solution.

While race equality cannot be achieved during this week, we can utilise our mustard seed faith to pray for the knowledge and skills that will enable the work. **Therefore let us pray this week with the prayer prompts given over the coming days:**

- **Monday:** for God to impart His desire for greater unity within our hearts
- **Tuesday:** wisdom to understand God's will for racial equity within our congregations
- **Wednesday:** curiosity and a commitment to learn and listen to experiences that differ from our own
- **Thursday:** compassion for the inequalities faced by others
- **Friday:** courage and humility to admit our naivety, complicity or lack of awareness
- **Saturday:** forgiveness towards ourselves and others
- **Sunday:** guidance on how we can collectively be part of the solution
- **Monday:** dedication to action over the next year

Sophie Holder

Director of Racial Equity, Diocese of Leicester

Church in Wales:

Diocese of Bangor, Archbishop Andrew John,
Bishop David Morris

Church of Ireland:

Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough,
Archbishop Michael Jackson

Aotearoa (New Zealand)

MON 3 FEB Diocese of Trichy

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

Race Equality Week: for God to impart His desire for greater unity within our hearts.

Anskar, archbishop, missionary, 865

EPC: Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Vatican City

London (England)

TUES 4 FEB

Race Equality Week: wisdom to understand God's will for racial equity within our congregations.

St Aidan *In vacancy* We continue to trust the Lord as we are still in a long 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.

World Cancer Day <https://www.worldcancerday.org>

Gilbert, founder of the Gilbertine Order, 1189

Long Island (Episcopal Church)

WED 5 FEB

Race Equality Week: curiosity and a commitment to learn and listen to experiences that differ from our own.

Wyggestons and Trinity Almshouses, with Agnes House Carehome.

Andrew Micklethwaite (C), Chaplain.

We house 150 residents who are over 60, local to Leicestershire, and in some need. We are committed to delivering quality inclusive care and accommodation. We are part of the Kingdom of God in this city and country. Pray health for our residents, their families and visitors. Pray blessing on all our staff including Carers, Wardens, Cleaners, Laundry and Admin. Pray wisdom for our Charity Trustees, our Chair Sandra and our CEO Chris.

Los Angeles (Episcopal Church)

THURS 6 FEB

Race Equality Week: compassion for the inequalities faced by others.

Martyrs of Japan, 1597

Louisiana (Episcopal Church)

FRI 7 FEB

Race Equality Week: courage and humility to admit our naivety, complicity or lack of awareness.

Leicester, St Anne, St Paul & St Augustine

Liz Wilson (C), Sharon Andrews (C), Sharon Plant (C), Margaret Gillespie (R- PTO), John Andrews (Lay Associate Minister), Sahra Coltman (Messy Church Co-ordinator), Denis Walsh (R)

Please pray for our work with children, families and schools and for our pioneering work in footcare and on the allotment. We give thanks for emerging vocations across both parishes and those undertaking the JIF course this year.

Western Louisiana (Episcopal Church)

SAT 8 FEB

Race Equality Week: forgiveness towards ourselves and others.

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

St. Margaret's is exploring a long-term relationship with a local homelessness charity, please pray that this partnership can deepen and that it may provide a future for both church and charity.

Lua pula (Central Africa)

SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY

Race Equality Week: guidance on how we can collectively be part of the solution.

Racial Justice Sunday

It is inspiring to witness the strides our diocese is making in Racial Justice work. God has blessed us with the chance to engage in meaningful change through the Intercultural Worshipping Community Project. I am deeply grateful for our Bishop Leadership Team, the Racial Equity Unit, and all the churches tirelessly advocating for Racial Justice.

In my reflections on Racial Justice Sunday, I was especially moved by the verse in Leviticus 19:34: *"The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself."* This verse powerfully underscores the necessity of treating foreigners and strangers with the same respect and love we extend to our own. In the realm of racial justice, this passage serves as a vital reminder of the biblical principles of inclusivity and empathy.

Consider this: valuable ideas are often overlooked simply because they originate from different cultural perspectives. We may also find ourselves unconsciously believing that people from specific cultures lack competence in certain areas. These biases can hinder our ability to recognize and appreciate the dedication, talent, and creativity that individuals from diverse backgrounds bring to our churches and communities. It's crucial to acknowledge the realities faced by those experiencing racial injustice within the Church.

Ultimately the goal is to move beyond words and into meaningful actions that can make a real difference. This can include creating Racial Justice policies in our Churches and educating members about the history and impact of racism, both globally and within our local contexts, to ensure that everyone, regardless of their differences, is treated with dignity and kindness, reflecting the profound love and justice of God in our actions.

Join us in praying for a deep personal and collective commitment to racial justice in our communities.

- Seek healing and reconciliation, advocating for restorative practices in our churches and globally.
- Pray for accountability in legal and institutional systems to strengthen anti-discrimination laws.
- Support anti-racism education and active campaigning to foster awareness.
- Pray for the transformation of churches, fostering advocacy and a commitment to bringing God's love and justice into the world.
- Pray for the new Canons being installed at Leicester Cathedral today: The Revd Dr Tom Wilson (Canon Theologian), Viv Froggatt & Pam Spokes (Lay Canons).



*"Woman at the Well"
Hatigamma Uttarananda (Sri Lanka)*

Michael Ravuri

Intercultural Ministry Enabler

If there is one certainty in following Christ, it's that we can expect surprises. The story of the Woman at the Well tells us so much about how Jesus broke down barriers and responded to people as equals.

Church of England:

Diocese of Worcester, vacancy – bishop of Worcester, Bishop Martin Gorrick (acting bishop)

Church of Norway:

Diocese of Hamar, Bishop Ole Kristian Bonden

The Anglican Church of Australia

MON 10 FEB Diocese of Wyoming

Race Equality Week: dedication to action over the next year.

Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

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

Scholastica, abbess, c.543

EPC: Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland

Lucknow (North India)

TUES 11 FEB

St Andrew, Jarrom Street, Leicester

Johannes Arens, David Clark, Stephen Foster, Barry Naylor (C).

We firmly believe that doing things together with a common purpose creates community easier than mere talking. Our high turnover of incoming and leaving people requires us to constantly recruit new people for roles and tasks – which can be hard.

Lui (South Sudan)

WED 12 FEB St Nicholas Church Leicester

Pray for our continued mission and ministry to underserved communities, that we may continue our discipleship and strengthen our community bonds, even during our interregnum. We also ask for prayer especially for the DCC, visiting clergy, and all volunteers who keep this ancient church vibrant and alive.

Lusaka (Central Africa)

THURS 13 FEB Aylestone St Andrew with St James

**Rowena Bass (C), Barbara Neill, Lynda Foot & Pete Hobson (PTO),
Brenda Spencer (R-PTO) and Anna Bland (Ordinand).**

Pray that the strong missionary ministry of the Spirit of Aylestone (Churches Together in Aylestone) may continue to flourish as we reach out to the community, alongside our Baptist, Roman Catholic, Methodist friends.

The Lusitanian Church

FRI 14 FEB Broughton Astley & Croft with Stoney Stanton

Valentine, martyr at Rome, c.269

St Christopher, Leicester

Chris Collins (C), Elaine Smith (AM)

Samworth Enterprise Academy: please pray for our shared life, witness and ministry in our community.

Cyril & Methodius, missionaries, 869 and 885

Luwero (Uganda)

SAT 15 FEB

Sigfrid, bishop, 1045

Thomas Bray, priest, founder of SPCK and SPG, 1730

O God of compassion, who opened the eyes of your servant Thomas Bray to see the needs of the Church in the New World, and led him to found societies to meet those needs: make the Church in this land diligent at all times to propagate the Gospel among those who have not received it, and to promote the spread of Christian knowledge; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Northern Luzon (Phillippines)



What do we even call the region we want to pray about? The “Middle East” – with all the echoes of British colonial activity, not least the British Mandate for Palestine? Do we speak of Palestine? Of Judea and Samaria? Of Gaza, the West Bank, the Occupied territories? Of Israel – where are Israel’s borders? The Holy Land? If it is Holy, why so much bloodshed and hatred? If we cannot even agree as to how to refer to the land, what hope do we have of peace?

I am writing in October and can make no predictions as to the military or political situation in February, when you read this. But I will make two suggestions.

First, we should pray more and talk less. There’s nothing wrong with genuine dialogue, real encounters where we are open to understanding how others are feeling or how they view the situation. But if we are talking simply to shout our own views, then it is better to pray for peace.

Second, our prayers should focus particularly on the battered and shrinking Christian communities of this region. Bethlehem used to be majority-Christian. Now followers of Jesus are very much in the minority. Many depend on tourism for their living – and while war wages, tourists are scarce. We should not only pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ, but also support them financially.

There are many organisations that can give you ideas for prayer and ways to support those in need. These include:

Embrace the Middle East
(<https://embraceme.org/>),

the Holy Land Trust
(<https://www.holylandtrust.org/>),

Friends of the Holy Land
(<https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/>)

and the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem
(<https://j-dioocese.org/wordpress/>).

Revd Dr Tom Wilson

Director, St Philip’s Centre

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

The Church of Bangladesh



MON 17 FEB Diocese of Kiteto

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

Janani Luwum, archbishop, martyr, 1977

O God, whose Son the Good Shepherd laid down his life for his sheep: We give you thanks for your faithful shepherd, Janani Luwum, who after his Savior's example gave up his life for the sake of his flock. Grant us to be so inspired by his witness that we make no peace with oppression, but live as those who are sealed with the cross of Christ, who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

EPC: France, Germany, Monaco

Lweru (Tanzania)

TUES 18 FEB

St Hugh, Eyres Monsell and St James the Greater, Huncote

Andrew Lee (C)

We pray that both parishes will grow by 10% next year as well. We also pray that the Healing Mass and our Mission will develop further so that many people can receive baptism, confirmation, and Holy Matrimony.

Macau (Hong Kong)

WED 19 FEB

Holy Apostles, Leicester

Jenny Ridge, Andrew Micklethwaite, Nick Henwood (C), Ian Newcombe (AM) Ashley Prince (PA - PTO)

Susan Brownsword (LAM)

Pray for our youth group to continue to flourish and for more of our young people's friends to come along. Give thanks for our new gardening group. Pray for our welcome place to grow and develop deep relationships with our neighbours.

Machakos (Kenya)

THURS 20 FEB World Day of Social Justice

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/social-justice-day>

Holy Trinity and St John the Divine, Leicester

Elaine Sutherland, Jitesh Patel, James Norris, (C); Lois Young (Pio).

HTL appreciates prayer for: Our mission across last December and sharing the gospel, including school visits. Two staff team maternity leave, prayer for cover and the ministries involved to flourish. Our compassion ministry as people face hard times.

Maciene (Mozambique)

FRI 21 FEB St James the Greater, Leicester

Andrew Quigley, Angela Jagger (R-PTO), Victoria Roe (PA), Sheila Roberts (R) Michael Rule (AM)

We give thanks for the growth of congregations following the pandemic, and the work of our music department engaging young people. We are seeking to deepen engagement with local schools and universities, as well as celebrating the cultural diversity of our congregation, all whilst we meet difficult financial challenges.

Madhya Kerala (South India)

SAT 22 FEB St John the Baptist, Clarendon Park

Scott Else (AM), Sami Lindsey, David Lewis, Jon Tearne, Ali Simpson-Smith (C), Shirley Parsons (AM)

St John the Baptist CE Primary School

Please pray for our shared life, witness and ministry in our community.

Madi and West Nile (Uganda)



Bishops' Lent Appeal Charity 2024

The Leprosy Mission

Every two minutes, someone is diagnosed with leprosy. That's more than 200,000 new cases a year. Although it is curable, millions of people worldwide are living with the effects of the disease, from physical disability to mental health problems, poverty and discrimination.

The Leprosy Mission is a global Christian organisation leading the fight against leprosy. Following Jesus Christ, they seek to bring about transformation, breaking the chains of leprosy and empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness.

Everything the charity does is focused on its goals of zero leprosy transmission, zero leprosy disability and zero leprosy discrimination. They work in four key areas to achieve this - diagnosing and treating leprosy; caring for disabled people; fighting stigma; and advocating for change and pioneering research.

The Leprosy Mission runs projects in countries across Africa and Asia, including Nepal, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Sudan, Nigeria, Niger, Myanmar, Mozambique and Sri Lanka.

Pray for Revd Joshua

Reverend Joshua is the founder of Kaveri Kala Manram (KKM), a charity partner of The Leprosy Mission in Sri Lanka. When he was a child, the civil war forced his family to leave their home. Growing up in refugee camps, food was scarce. He had to make the most of whatever local produce he could find. When he grew up, God called him to help people living in poverty in Sri Lanka. He has a real heart for families affected by leprosy and ensures they

have a sustainable supply of nutritious food. Revd Joshua helps families to start their own vegetable gardens. Crops mean they are not only able to feed themselves, but they also sell produce to provide an income. He even brings communities together for cookery classes. Revd Joshua uses these opportunities to teach about nutrition and break down stigma against people with leprosy, whilst helping people affected by leprosy live life in all its fullness.

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.

www.leprosymission.org.uk

Gemma Starkings

Communications Manager

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

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

The Anglican Church of Brasil

MON 24 FEB Diocese of Wyoming

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

Church of the Nativity (LEP)

Ivan Bennett (C)

Please pray for our shared life, witness and ministry in our community.

Ukraine 3 year vigil in City Centre & Cathedral this evening.

EPC: Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands



Madras (South India)

TUES 25 FEB Knighton (St Mary Magdalen and St Guthlac)

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

Please pray that we continue to remember and celebrate God's goodness and faithfulness towards us.

Pray that, as we look to our challenges, we will have renewed hope in God's good purposes as we see them so clearly in Jesus.

Madurai-Ramnad (South India)

WED 26 FEB St Mary de Castro, Leicester

In Vacancy.

Please pray for our shared life, witness and ministry in our community.

Magwi (South Sudan)

THURS 27 FEB

George Herbert, priest, poet, 1633.

Almighty God, who called your servant George Herbert from the pursuit of worldly honours to be a poet and a pastor of souls: Give us grace, we pray, joyfully to dedicate all our powers to your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Mahajanga (Indian Ocean)

FRI 28 FEB St Peter, Braunstone Park

Nigel Rostock (C)

We are grateful that Jesus has remained central in our activities and worship. We pray that Christ will continue to add to our number, as we hold to the authority of scripture, and our Orthodox Credal heritage.

Maiduguri (Nigeria)

SAT 1 MAR

Women's History Month (see article on the 9th March, page 26)

David, bishop, patron of Wales, c.601

Almighty God, who called your servant David to be a faithful and wise steward of your mysteries for the people of Wales: in your mercy, grant that, following his purity of life and zeal for the gospel of Christ, we may with him receive the crown of everlasting life; 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.**

Main (Episcopal Church)

SUNDAY 2 MARCH CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY SUNDAY



So why a designated Sunday for this, given that many of our Churches are taking action every week – through foodbanks and other kinds of support? This Sunday is so designated by the organisation 'Church Action on Poverty'. They campaign and raise awareness – check out their thoughtful materials for today which offer insights into living with poverty in this country.

The statistics are stark. According to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation the number of people in really deep poverty is rising. The kind of poverty where even the most basic of essentials are unaffordable. Many others live precariously near that situation. Health, stability of living, school performance, wellbeing... there are huge knock-on negative effects of poverty, not least in terms of stress and mental health. And some groups of people are more affected – among them children, people with disabilities and informal carers. Employment availability, zero hours and part-time contracts and the complexities of the benefits system make navigation and planning difficult for households, especially those juggling different priorities such as childcare or family members with particular needs. Check out the Joseph Rowntree 2024 report 'UK Poverty 2024: The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK'.

The aforementioned resources are entitled 'Dreams and Realities'. Reflection and prayer

around the stark contrast between these two for many people, together with any engagement we can offer to help create a more just society – these are good ways of marking this Sunday.

Pray for:

- People in your neighbourhood experiencing poverty and its' corrosive effects
- The work of Church Action on Poverty and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- Local organisations such as foodbanks and advice centres which help people in poverty

www.church-poverty.org.uk

UK Poverty 2024: The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK
Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Revd Canon Alison Adams

Canon Pastor, Leicester Cathedral

Church of England:

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

Church of Ireland:

Diocese of Down and Dromore,
Bishop David McClay

The Anglican Church of Burundi

MON 3 MAR Intercultural Cities Event at Leicester Cathedral

Diocese of Trichy: please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Covid National Day of Reflection

World Orphan Week 3rd-9th March

EPC: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Ireland

Maiwut (South Sudan)

TUES 4 MAR World Orphan Week 3rd-9th March

The Conventional District of Hamilton, Leicester Ed Down (C) Hamilton CE Primary School

Pray for us as we seek to develop our intergenerational work and continue to grow in our diversity.

Pray especially for our families who have to juggle work shifts and childcare and for our Minster

Community proposals as they develop.

Makamba (Burundi)

WED 5 MAR World Orphan Week 3rd-9th March

Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God, who 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.**

Makueni (Kenya)

THURS 6 MAR World Orphan Week 3rd-9th March

The Cathedral Parish of St Martins

Clergy – Karen Rooms (Dean) Sarah Gill (Canon Missioner) Alison Adams (Canon Pastor)

Emma Davies (Canon Precentor), Licensed Lay Minister - Marian Kandi

The newly built Heritage and Learning Centre is finally due to open well before Easter. We look forward to the new hospitality space for welcoming worshippers and visitors, and to building new relationships with communities across the city and county. Pray for confident Christian witness in a Cathedral for everyone.

Makurdi (Nigeria)

FRI 7 MAR World Orphan Week 3rd-9th March

Leicester Cathedral Music – Dr Chris Ouvry-Johns (Director of Music), Rosie Vinter (Asst Director of Music) David Cowen (Cathedral Organist) Lucy Haigh (Choral Director)

We have four choirs that train and offer choral music in worship: Junior Girls and Boys, Senior Girls and Songmen. The Diocesan music outreach in seven community schools expands the musical education that is offered here. Join us in praying the RSCM Choristers' Prayer: *Bless, O Lord, us thy servants, who minister in thy temple. Grant that what we sing with our lips, we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts, we may show forth in our lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

World Day of Prayer: 2025 Theme and Country Cook Islands – World Day Of Prayer

"For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139:14 (NRSV)

Perpetua, Felicity and companions, martyrs, 203

Malabar (South India)

SAT 8 MAR World Orphan Week 3rd-9th March

International Women's Day (see article on 9th March)

Edward King, bishop, 1910. Felix, bishop, 647. Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, priest, poet, 1929

Malaita (Melanesia)



**World Orphan Week 3rd-9th March
March is Women's History Month &
International Women's Day is March 8th.**

Women's History month brings to mind many women who have been known for their impact on the life of others. Historical figures like Joan of Arc, Mary Secale and Marie Curie we may only know of through books or the history we were taught in school. Nowadays, we might think of women like Mother Teresa, Queen Elizabeth II, or Greta Thunberg, the young environmental activist.

In the bible we read the accounts of many women and the role they were given. For example, Miriam, Deborah, Ruth, Esther, Mary and Martha, and of course Mary the mother of Jesus. We learn of their love for God and their struggles and influences as well as how they were used by God.

In our own personal history, we have all been influenced by others. It is good to reflect on the women who have made a positive impact on our lives whether relatives, friends, or teachers. In our daily lives we are also blessed by contact with positive, encouraging acquaintances and by the fellowship of other Christians.

International Women's Day (IWD) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. This year the day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. 'Accelerate Action' is following on from the two previous themes of Embrace Empathy and Inspire Inclusion. With the

right action and support for women, positive progress against barriers to gender equality, can be made for women everywhere.

As I reflect on the theme of Accelerate Action, I wonder what action God has been calling you to. Are you ready to accelerate in your walk with Him? Are you ready to step up and walk in the good works God prepared beforehand? *"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* Ephesians 2:10

- Praise God for the women who have had a positive role in our lives.
- Pray that each of us will have the courage to step into all that God has prepared for us to do.
- Pray for the International Women's Day movement in its global role and as it calls for action on gender parity this year.

Jill Matthews

Lay member of Diocesan Women's Ministry Group

Give thanks for the Rt Rev Isaiah Nathanieli Chambala, who is retiring as the Bishop of Kiteto, and for the new Bishop being installed today.

Church of England:

Diocese of Chelmsford,
Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop Roger Morris,
Bishop Lynne Cullens, Bishop Adam Atkinson

Church of Sweden:

Diocese of Karlstad, Bishop Sören Dalevi

The Anglican Church of Canada

MON 10 MAR

Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

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

EPC: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Greenland

Malakal (South Sudan)

TUES 11 MAR *Roots IWC*

Roots IWC

Kat Gibson (Pio)

Please pray for Roots as we enter a transition season over the coming months. Pray for the right people to step into leadership; for God's peace for all who will struggle with this time, and for stability for those with chaotic lives.

Lake Malawi (Central Africa)

WED 12 MAR

Roots: Asylum Seekers

Kat Gibson (Pio)

Please pray for Leicester's asylum seekers and refugees, particularly for much-needed appropriate accommodation, adequate food, and God's comfort as people process profound traumas. Pray for school places, language support, access to appropriate clothing, friendships, and a sense of security.

Northern Malawi (Central Africa)

THURS 13 MAR

Deanery of Framland

Area Dean: John Barr. Lay Chair: Jo de Graaf

Please pray for our parishes for patience, love and prayerful discernment of God's will at this anxious and uncertain time. Please also pray for children and staff at our local schools across the deanery, including several Church schools.

Southern Malawi (Central Africa)

FRI 14 MAR

Deanery of Framland PTO clergy:

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

Ember Day

"I set no store by life:

*I only want to finish the race and complete the task
that the Lord has assigned to me,
of bearing witness to the gospel of God's grace."*

West Malaysia (South East Asia)

SAT 15 MAR

Ember Day

*"God has called us to follow Christ,
and has formed us into a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
to declare the wonderful deeds of him who has called us
out of darkness into his marvellous light."*

Malek (South Sudan)



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?

A Prayer of Benedict of Nursia

*Gracious and holy Father,
Please give me intellect to understand you,
reason to discern you, diligence to seek you,
wisdom to find you, a spirit to know you,
a heart to meditate upon you, ears to hear you,
eyes to see you, a tongue to proclaim you,
a way of life pleasing to you, patience to wait for you,
and perseverance to look for you.
Grant me a perfect end, your holy presence,
a blessed resurrection, and life everlasting.*

Amen

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?

*God of our salvation,
hope of all the ends of the earth, we pray:
Thy kingdom come.*

*That the world may know Jesus Christ
as the Prince of Peace, we pray:*

Thy kingdom come.

*That we may be bold to speak the word of God
while you stretch out your hand to save,
we pray: Thy kingdom come.*

*That the Church may be generous in giving,
faithful in serving, bold in proclaiming, we pray:
Thy kingdom come.*

That the day may come when every knee shall

*bow and every tongue confess that Jesus
Christ is Lord, we pray:*

Thy kingdom come, Amen

3 Key Questions – Loving Service

Our third key question as a Diocese is: How
are you serving your community, and enabling
others to love and serve those around them?
*O Lord, open my eyes that I may see the needs
of others*

*Open my ears that I may hear their cries;
Open my heart so that they need not be
without comfort; Let me not be afraid to
defend the weak because of the anger of the
strong,
Nor afraid to defend the poor because of the
anger of the rich.*

*Show me where love and hope and faith are
needed,*

And use me to bring them to those places.

And so open my eyes and my ears

*That I may this coming day be able to do some
work of peace for thee. Amen.*

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia:

Archbishop Jānis Vanags, Bishop Einārs Alpe,
Bishop Hanss Martins Jenson,
Bishop Rinalds Grants, Bishop Uldis Gailitis

Church of England:

Diocese of Lichfield, Bishop Michael Ipgrave,
Bishop Timothy Wambunya, Bishop Sarah Bullock,
Bishop Matthew Parker, Bishop Paul Thomas

Church in Wales:

Diocese of St David's, Bishop Dorrien Davies
Province of Central Africa

MON 17 MAR Diocese of Kiteto

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

Patrick, bishop, missionary, patron of Ireland, c.460

EPC: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

Malek Rup (South Sudan)

TUES 18 MAR

Cyril, bishop, teacher of the faith, 386

Strengthen, O God, thy church in the sacraments of thy grace, that we, in union with the teaching and prayers of thy servant Cyril of Jerusalem, may enter more fully into thy Paschal mystery; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Malindi (Kenya)

WED 19 MAR

Joseph of Nazareth

Almighty God, we give you thanks for Joseph and for the whole company of your saints in glory, with whom in fellowship we join our prayers and praises; by your grace may we, like them, be made perfect in your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Te Pihopatanga O Te Manawa o Te Wheke (New Zealand)

THURS 20 MAR

Cuthbert, bishop, missionary, 687

Manchester (England)

FRI 21 MAR

International day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-racism-day>

Good and gracious God, you invite us to recognise and reverence your divine image and likeness in our neighbour. Enable us to see the reality of racism and free us to challenge and uproot it from our society, our world and ourselves. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

World Down Syndrome Day

<https://www.worlddownsyndromeday.org/2025-theme>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/barrier-free-belonging/valuing-people-downs-syndrome-toolkit>

Prayer for Down Syndrome: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28RWxW2C_Hw

Thomas Cranmer, archbishop, Reformation martyr, 1556

Mandalay (Myanmar)

SAT 22 MAR

World Water Day | United Nations

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/water-day>

Prayer: How many of your children, Lord, live in dry and dangerous lands? In harsh and polluted lands? What must I do to serve them? Let me begin with gratitude: for each glass of water, for each minute in the shower, for each time the simple gift of water brings refreshment to my life. Let me then move to action: to refrain from waste, to support clean-water efforts, to pray for those who dare to make change. You, Lord, give refreshment to the soul through the living waters of your love. Let the waters of the world be made safe, clean and cool, that they may bring life and health to our bodies. Amen.

Manicaland (Central Africa)

Intergenerational Communities Prayer Update

Bishops' Children & Youth Council

We are reimagining how we hear and respond to the voice of children and young people in the Diocese of Leicester. Each term we facilitate a listening exercise in partnership with schools and church groups. In the past 18 months, we've heard from more than 750 young voices from across the city and county.

Pray for...

- ...children, young people, and families in your local area.
- ...local schools, teachers, and support staff.
- ...more groups to engage with our listening exercise.
- ...young voices to be heard and responded to.

Training Opportunities

There is a range of new training opportunities for clergy, employed workers, adult volunteers and young leaders – anyone working with children and young people or exploring a vocation in children or youth ministry.

Pray for...

- ...all those of have signed up to these training opportunities.
- ...new vocations in children and youth ministry in our Diocese.
- ...recruitment to future training opportunities.

Ministry Experience Scheme

The overarching aim of the Ministry Experience Scheme is to give young adults (18s-30s), from all backgrounds, the space and time to test God's calling on their lives. In September we welcomed nine Ministry Experience Scheme participants to Leicester.

We have participants serving intercultural worshipping communities, children, youth and



schools work, worship teams, and social action projects. Three of our participants are completing Future Youth, a new strand of the Ministry Experience Scheme, spending a year growing in young people and children's ministry through ministry placements, training and mentoring.

Pray for...

- ...our participants as they serve their local church and discern God's call on their lives.

Matt Long

Youth Engagement & Intergenerational Communities Enabler
Diocese of Leicester

10th Anniversary Compline at 7pm
of the re-interment of King Richard III
at Leicester Cathedral

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 (Acting Bishop)

The Anglican Church in Central America

MON 24 MAR Diocese of Wyoming

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

Walter Hilton, mystic, 1396; Paul Couturier, priest, ecumenist, 1953; Oscar Romero, archbishop, martyr, 1980

EPC: Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia

Maper (South Sudan)

TUES 25 MAR The Annunciation

International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/transatlantic-slave-trade>

Merciful God, you are righteous and love justice: stir the hearts of your people that, rejoicing in our diversity, we may repent of the wrongs of the past, and, by your grace, seek the peaceable kingdom of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Annunciation We beseech you, O Lord, pour your grace into our hearts, that as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection; 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.**

Mara (Tanzania)

WED 26 MAR

Harriet Monsell, founder of the Community of St John the Baptist, 1883

10th Anniversary Service at 5:30pm of the re-internment of King Richard III at Leicester Cathedral.

Maralal (Kenya)

THURS 27 MAR

The East Vale of Belvoir Parishes of Barkestone-le-Vale, Bottesford, Muston, Plungar, and Redmile
Monica Judson (C - GFM), John Bartlett (R), Lisa Smith (R)

Bottesford & Redmile CE Primary Schools

Please pray for growing faith through our worship, Hub, schools work, Tea and Cakes, holiday clubs and Sing for Joy. We are thankful for all our church families, our growing ministry team and God's loving care.

Marathwada (North India)

FRI 28 MAR

The Parishes of Ab Kettleby, Asfordby, Grimston, Holwell, Saxelby with Shoby, Six Hills & Wartnaby
Mark Carroll (C), Lorna Wright, Roger Tucker and Paul Ainge (R) Fiona Brant (AM)

Please pray for us as we confront the changing times, whilst continuing our work of worship and evangelism.

Maridi (South Sudan)

SAT 29 MAR Diocesan Synod

The West Vale of Belvoir Parishes of Harby, Hose, Long Clawson, Nether Broughton, Old Dalby & Stathern
In vacancy, Simon Shouler, Paul Towns (C), Jo de Graaf & Mel Oldershaw (AM) & Richard Hedley (AM in training)

Pray for the six parishes as they seek to move forward working together.

Marsabit (Kenya)

Mothering Sunday

We light a candle to remind us that the love of God is like a light in our darkness.

All Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have loved and laughed and laboured as they cared for their children;

All Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you, our God, for all mothers who have wept in sorrow and joy for their children:

All Blessed be God for ever.

We praise you, our God, for Jesus, born of a woman and nurtured in her love, and for Mary, a reminder of your patient, waiting love.

All Blessed be God for ever.



International Day of Zero Waste

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/zero-waste-day>

Working towards zero waste is one of the best things we can do to look after God's creation: it means less plastic pollution in the soil and ocean, fewer methane emissions from landfill as well as less oil needing to be extracted in the first place.

Reducing our waste is a challenge for us all. Dave Bookless wrote about an experience he had on a family holiday on the Isle of Scilly, where he went to throw his rubbish bags into the "tip" in the bay – the contrast of the beauty of creation and the ugliness of the rubbish caused a moment of deep prayer where he felt God ask, "How do you think I feel about what you're doing to my world?"¹ It shook him to his core and led to a full re-evaluation of how he lived his life.

If God doesn't do waste, how do we deal with everything which comes into our homes or church buildings which at some point will become waste? We can:

- intentionally buy food and products plastic free, whenever possible.
- become more aware of our consumerism, only buying what we actually need.
- make sure we use "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" in our own household.
- evaluate what our church is doing to reduce waste as part of our Eco Church award².
- partner with other groups to help our church become a recycling hub for our community: Bras (against breast cancer); ink cartridges (recycle 4 charity); bikes (the bike project); old pens (Ryman); batteries (local tip).

Prayer Points

Pray for insight as you look at your personal and church's waste stream.

Pray for creativity for how we as individuals, churches and community can reduce, reuse and recycle waste wisely.

Pray for the impact of the Global Plastics Treaty which completed in November 2024.

¹ Dave Bookless "God Doesn't do Waste: redeeming the whole of life" IVP, 2010 (p.14)

² Our church has a waste and recycling policy or practice that ensures everything possible is reused or recycled so that the waste that goes to landfill is minimised. (Buildings and Energy audit, Eco Church Survey, 2024)

Anne Scott

Outdoor Worship Leicestershire Facilitator

Church of Ireland:

Diocese of Armagh, Archbishop John McDowell

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:

Diocese of Funen, Bishop Mads Davidsen

Church of England:

Diocese of Sodor and Man, Bishop Tricia Hillas

The Anglican Church of the Congo

MON 31 MAR Diocese of Trichy

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

John Donne, priest, poet, 1631

Almighty God, the root and fountain of all being: Open our eyes To see, with thy servant John Donne, that whatsoever hath any being is a mirror in which we may behold thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

EPC: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia
Maryland (Episcopal Church)

TUES 1 APR

Frederick Denison Maurice, priest, teacher of the faith, 1872

Almighty God, who has restored our human nature to heavenly glory through the perfect obedience of our Savior Jesus Christ: Enliven in your Church, we pray, the passion for justice and truth, that, like your servant Frederick Denison Maurice, we may work and pray for the triumph of the kingdom of Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. Masasi (Tanzania)

WED 2 APR World Autism Awareness Day

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/world-autism-awareness-day>

Loving God, Bless today in special ways all the children, adults and families who see the world through the window of autism. May Your Spirit burn bright in them and all who celebrate and honour the richness of our diversity. Grant us, O Lord, the wisdom to see your image reflected in all of our differences, and to recognize the unique gifts we each have to offer. May the doors of ministry in our Church continue to open wide in welcome to all of God's family. We ask this in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

Maseno East (Kenya)

THURS 3 APR

The South Croxton Benefice and the Burrough Hill Benefice

In vacancy. Jane Walker (C)

Please pray for our shared life, witness and ministry in our community.

Maseno North (Kenya)

FRI 4 APR

The Benefice of South Framland and The High Framland Parishes

David Cowie (C); Jean Lee (R), Barbara Guntrip (R)

Croxton Kerrial CE Primary School, Wymondham CE Primary School

Please pray with thanksgiving for: our very small but dedicated ministry team, spread so thinly across two large rural benefices; and our ministry to primary schools and a local nursery, that our ministry might continue to grow and flourish.

Maseno South (Kenya)

SAT 5 APR

Framland Deanery

Crystal McAllister (Deanery Pioneer Minister)

My continued work in ministering to Churches across the deanery. For 'Kindling'; a community of practice for pioneers joined by associate ministers, for learning and fellowship. 'Storybearers'; an online fXc; an enabling worshipping community, growing in depth of discipleship.

Maseno West (Kenya)



Passiontide

John 12:1-8

(New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised)

Mary Anoints Jesus

12 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them[a] with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii[b] and the money given to the poor?' ⁶ (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.) ⁷ Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it[c] so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

Let us pray to the Father through his Son who suffered on the cross for the world's redemption.

Fill with your Spirit Christ's broken body, the Church ...

Give to Christian people everywhere a deep longing

to take up the cross and to understand its mysterious glory.

By the Saviour's cross and passion,

Lord, save us and help us.

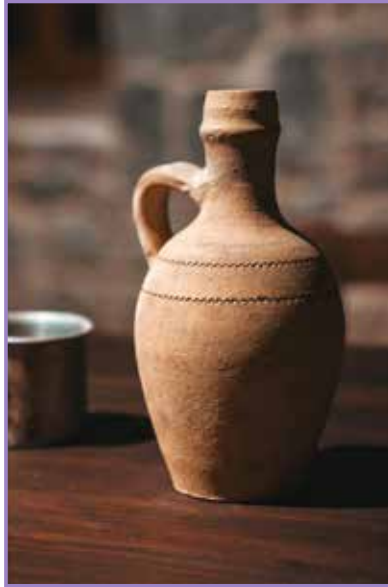
Bless those who lead the Church's worship at this solemn time ...

In the preaching of the word and the celebration of the sacraments draw your people close to you.

By the Saviour's cross and passion,

Lord, save us and help us.

Strengthen those among us who are preparing for baptism, together with their teachers, sponsors and families ...



Teach them what it means to die and rise with Christ
and prepare them to receive the breath of his Spirit.
By the Saviour's cross and passion,
Lord, save us and help us.

Look in your mercy upon the world you loved so much
that you sent your Son to suffer and to die...
Strengthen those who work to share
the reconciliation won at such a cost upon the cross.
By the Saviour's cross and passion,
Lord, save us and help us.

Bring healing by the wounds of Christ
to all who are weighed down by pain and injustice ...
Help the lonely and the betrayed,
the suffering and the dying,
to find strength in the companionship of Jesus,
and in his passion to know their salvation.
By the Saviour's cross and passion,
Lord, save us and help us.



Welcome into paradise all who have left
this world in your friendship ...
According to your promises,
bring them with all your saints
to share in all the benefits of Christ's death
and resurrection.
By the Saviour's cross and passion,
Lord, save us and help us.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us that what we do for the least
of our brothers and sisters we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

Church in Wales:
Diocese of Llandaff, Bishop Mary Stallard

The Anglican Church of Chile

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Prayer from Prison

O God, early in the morning I cry to you. Help me to pray and gather my thoughts to you, I cannot do it alone. In me it is dark, but with you there is light; I am lonely, but you do not desert me; My courage fails me, but with you there is help; I am restless, but with you there is peace; in me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience; I do not understand your ways, but you know the way for me. Father in Heaven praise and thanks be to you for the night.



MON 7 APR

Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

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

World Health Day <https://www.worldvision.org.uk/campaign/world-health-day>

EPC: Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania

Masindi-Kitara (Uganda)

TUES 8 APR

Windmill Forest Church BMO

Laura Marsh (Pioneer Minister)

Give thanks for a recent baptism and confirmation service in the forest with +Saju and the growth in faith of those who are a part of this growing, thriving community of believers.

Massachusetts (Episcopal Church)

WED 9 APR

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran pastor, martyr, 1945 (commemoration)

See page 36

Western Massachusetts (Episcopal Church)

THURS 10 APR Glenfield & Newtown Linford

Melton Mowbray Team Parish

**Mary Barr (C - Team Rector) Janet King (Pio), Carol Parker (Pio), Linda Pearson (R), Lorraine Simmonds (PA).
St Mary's CE Primary School**

Please pray that across our Team Parish God's Holy Spirit will enable us to hold the tension between our fragility (including in finances and clergy and volunteer well-being) and the resilience we have as Christ dwells within us: treasure in clay jars.

William Law, priest, spiritual writer, 1761

William of Ockham, friar, philosopher, teacher of the faith, 1347.

Masvingo (Central Africa)

FRI 11 APR

The Upper Wreake Benefice

David Harknett (C), Malcolm Britton (R-PTO)

Frisby-on-the-Wreake CE Primary School

Pray that we might help 'heal the world' through our eco-Church focus flourishing in Hoby and germinating in Kirby, Frisby & Rotherby. "*Tend well to the earth, for there is no-one to make it right after you.*" Talmud

George Selwyn, bishop, 1878

Matabeleland (Central Africa)

SAT 12 APR

Ironstone Villages Family of Churches

**John Barr (C), Sue Bradley (C-PTO), Mike Alexander (AM), Christine Alexander (AM), Paul Taylor (R-PTO),
Scalford and Waltham CE Primary Schools**

We give thanks for those who share in the ministry of hospitality in our churches, and pray that this might encourage discipleship. Please also join us in praying for growth in vocations, especially for more to serve in our six PCCs and as church officers.

Matana (Burundi)



Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Behold your king comes to you, O Zion, meek and lowly, sitting upon an ass. Ride on in the cause of truth and for the sake of justice. Your throne is the throne of God, it endures for ever; and the sceptre of your kingdom is a righteous sceptre. You have loved righteousness and hated evil. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows.
Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Holding a palm branch or leaf:

The people hold up palms or branches while this prayer is said by the president:
God our Saviour, whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die; let these palms be for us signs of

his victory and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Let us pray for a closer union with Christ in his suffering and in his glory.
Silence is kept.

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; 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 Passion Reading

*Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
Christ humbled himself and became obedient
unto death, even death on a cross.*

*Therefore God has highly exalted him
and given him the name that is above
every name.*

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Luke 23: 1-49

Silence is kept.

*We stand with Christ in his suffering.
For forgiveness for the many times
we have denied Jesus,
let us pray to the Lord.*

Lord, have mercy.

*For grace to seek out those habits of sin
which mean spiritual death,
and by prayer and self-discipline
to overcome them,
let us pray to the Lord.*

Lord, have mercy.

*For Christian people,
that through the suffering of disunity
there may grow a rich union in Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.*

Lord, have mercy.

*For those who make laws, interpret them,
and administer them,
that our common life may be ordered
in justice and mercy,
let us pray to the Lord.*

Lord, have mercy.

*For those who still make
Jerusalem a battleground,
let us pray to the Lord.*

Lord, have mercy.

*For those who have the courage and
honesty to work openly for justice and peace,
let us pray to the Lord.*

Lord, have mercy.



For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel that God is far from them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we, with those who have died in faith, may find mercy in the day of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

*Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.*

*Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking
the form of a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross
for our salvation:
give us the mind to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father.*

Amen.

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

The Church of England

MON 14 APR

Diocese of Kiteto

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

EPC: Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine

Reflections for Holy Week by Rev Rowena Bass, Rector of Aylestone St Andrew with St James (Benefice)

John 12: 1-11

Said Judas to Mary, "now what will you do with your ointment so rich and so rare?" I'll pour it all over the feet of the Lord, and I'll wipe it away with my hair, she said, I'll wipe it away with my hair.

O Mary, O Mary, O think of the poor – this ointment, it could have been sold. And think of the blankets and think of the bread you could buy with the silver and gold, he said, you could buy with the silver and gold.

Tomorrow, tomorrow, I'll think of the poor; tomorrow, she said, not today. For dearer than all of the poor in the world is my love who is going away, she said, my love who is going away.

Said Jesus to Mary, your love is so deep, today you may do as you will. Tomorrow you say I am going away, but my body I leave with you still, he said, my body I leave with you still.

The poor of the world are my body, he said, to the end of the world they shall be. The bread and the blankets you give to the poor, you'll find you have given to me, he said, you'll find you have given to me.

My body will hang on the cross of the world tomorrow, he said, and today. And Martha and Mary will find me again and wash all my sorrow away, he said, and wash all my sorrow away.

Sydney Carter 1964

Matlosane (Southern Africa)

TUES 15 APR



John 12: 20- 36

The design for the cross in S. Mary Magdalene's Chapel, Wantage, is based on a photograph of a cluster of atoms in a single crystal of platinum, magnified 750,000 times.

Mauritius (Indian Ocean)

WED 16 APR

John 13: 21-32

A Poison Tree

I was angry with my friend;
I told my wrath, my wrath did end.
I was angry with my foe:
I told it not, my wrath did grow.

And I water'd it in fears,
Night and morning with my tears:
And I sunned it with smiles,
And with soft deceitful wiles.

And it grew both day and night.
Till it bore an apple bright.
And my foe beheld it shine,
And he knew that it was mine.

And into my garden stole,
When the night had veil'd the pole;
In the morning glad I see;
My foe outstretched beneath the tree.

William Blake 1794

Mbaise (Nigeria)

THURS 17 APR Maundy Thursday

John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

Love bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,
Guilty of dust and sin.

But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,

Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
If I lack'd anything.

'A guest,' I answer'd, 'worthy to be here:'
Love said, 'You shall be he'

'I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
I cannot look on Thee.'

Love took my hand and smiling did reply,
'Who made the eyes but I?'

'Truth, Lord; but I have marr'd them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.'

'And know you not,' says Love, 'Who bore the blame?'
'My dear, then I will serve.'

'You must sit down,' says Love, 'and taste my meat.'
So I did sit and eat.

George Herbert 1633

Diocesan Eucharist with renewal of ordination vows – Leicester Cathedral

God our Father, you have invited us
to share in the supper
which your Son gave to his Church
to proclaim his death until he comes:
may he nourish us by his presence,
and unite us in his love;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Mbale (Uganda)

FRI 18 APR Good Friday

Good Friday: John 18: 1- 19: end

Death and Life have contended

In Eden – I shall always remember this –
I lost blessings numberless as the dew;
Down fell my bright crown:
But the victory of Calvary
Won them back for me again;
I shall sing as long as I live.

Faith! Yonder is the place, and yonder the tree,
On which the Prince of Heaven was nailed,
Innocent, in my place;
The dragon has been crushed by the One;
As two were wounded, One has conquered,
And that One was Jesus.

William Williams c1774 - Trans. From Welsh

North Mbale (Uganda)

SAT 19 APR Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday: John 19: 38-end

His cross stands empty in a world grown silent
Through hours of anguish and of dread;
In stillness, earth awaits the resurrection,
While Christ goes down to wake the dead.

He summons Adam and his generations,
Brings light where darkness endless seemed;
He frees and claims his own, so long held captive,
Who, with the living, are redeemed.

With God the Father and the Holy Spirit,
Give praise to Christ the crucified,
Who, through the ages, seeks to save his lost ones;
The sinful folk for whom he died.

Anon. Stanbrook Abbey

Mbamili (Nigeria)



**Easter Sunday – Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

John 20:1-18

(New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised)

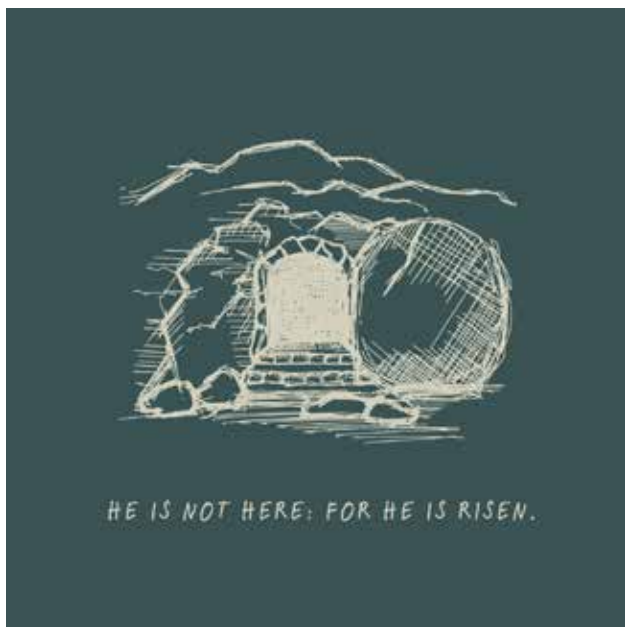
The Resurrection of Jesus

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him!' ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen

wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, 'Woman, why are



you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.¹⁵ Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher).¹⁷ Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”’¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.



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.

Church of England:

Diocese of Blackburn, Bishop Philip North,
Bishop Jill Duff, Bishop Joseph Kennedy

Scottish Episcopal Church:

Diocese of Brechin, Bishop Andrew Swift

The Lutheran Church in Great Britain:

Bishop Paulina Hlawiczka-Trotman

The Church of Hong Kong

MON 21 APR Diocese of Wyoming

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

EPC: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

Reflections for Easter Week 2025 by Revd. Alison Iliffe,

Vicar in the Harborough Anglican Team and member of the Diocesan Women's Ministry Group

Illustrations taken from 'Women of Holy Week' by Paula Gooder with illustrations by Ally Barrett, reproduced with permission © Ally Barrett 2022

"So the women left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'"

As the women left the tomb they were afraid yet filled with joy. When Jesus met them he said, "Do not be afraid." Nothing about losing the joy! As the women went to tell others the amazing news that Jesus is alive, we can imagine the joy in their hearts.

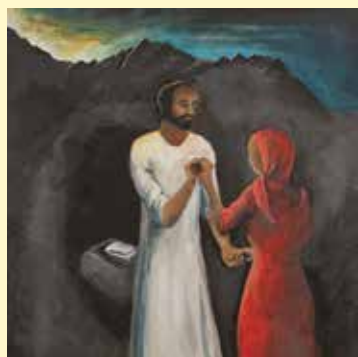
Risen Lord, help us not to be afraid when we go to tell the good news of Jesus in the places where you send us, and may we never lose the joy of having met you along the way. Amen. Mbeere (Kenya)

TUES 22 APR Stephen Lawrence Day

<https://stephenlawrenceday.org>

Earth Day 2025 | Activities & Resources for April 22 - Earth Day

<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2025>



"But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?'"

Although consumed with grief, Mary Magdalene found just enough courage within herself to look into the tomb. That action led to an encounter with the risen Jesus which would turn her tears to joy-filled hope.

Risen Lord, we pray for those who weep today, those we now name, those whose names we don't know, and those across the world who live lives of unimaginable pain. Give courage to those who weep today to look up and see the hope of your resurrected life. Amen.

Mbhashe (Southern Africa)

WED 23 APR

"When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?'"

As Cleopas and possibly his wife travelled to Emmaus, they were so focussed on their own problems and disappointments they didn't recognise the risen Jesus as he walked alongside them, only later recognising him as they sat down for a family meal and he broke the bread.

Risen Lord, we name our problems and disappointments before you now. Thank you that through your death and resurrection your love shines through. May our hearts burn within us as we recognise you journeying with us. Amen.

Meath and Kildare (Ireland)



THURS 24 APR

"Jesus showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence."

It is likely that both women and men were gathered together as they tried to make sense of what was happening. As Jesus came and stood among them, they needed to touch him and see him eat to turn their doubt into joy.

*Risen Lord, in those times when we are troubled and doubts rise in our minds, we pray for others to come alongside us to share our fears and help us make sense of what is happening. We pray for all who are lonely or alone today, that they may take comfort in your presence. **Amen.***

Medak (South India)

FRI 25 APR

"That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake."

Peter, who had challenged Jesus and sometimes struggled as one of his disciples, didn't hesitate as he jumped out of the boat to reach Jesus. Later, Jesus would ask Peter three times if he loved him. In action and word, through faith, through love, Peter chose Jesus.

*Risen Lord, thank you that again and again you give us the choice to respond to your love for us. Open our minds to the truth of your resurrection and our hearts to love and welcome others. We pray for those who get into boats risking everything for the hope of a new life. **Amen.***

World Malaria Day

<https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-malaria-day>

Central Melanesia (Melanesia)

SAT 26 APR

"Jesus said to the disciples, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.'"

In the days since his resurrection, Jesus had seen the fear, the weeping, the disappointments and doubt in his followers. And yet, he still sent them to go into the world with the Good News that Jesus rose from the dead and lives. The risen Christ sees beyond all the struggles within us today and sends us: sends us as witnesses in the world and to be good stewards of God's creation.

*Risen Lord, as we grow in our relationship with you, give us confidence to be witnesses and wisdom to be good stewards in the world. May those times of fear, weeping, disappointment and doubt strengthen and transform us, enabling your light to overcome every darkness and to shine through us as we share the good news of your unconditional love for us all. **Amen.***

Melbourne (Australia)



John 20:19-31

(New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised)

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵ So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.'²⁸ Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!'²⁹

Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Prayers

*Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father. Amen.*

*Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Church of Sweden: Diocese of Gothenburg,
Bishop Susanne Rappmann

Scottish Episcopal Church:
Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, vacancy
Province of the Indian Ocean

MON 28 APR Diocese of Trichy

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

George, martyr, patron of England, c.304 (transferred from 23rd April)

God of hosts, who so kindled the flame of love in the heart of your servant George that he bore witness to the risen Lord by his life and by his death:

give us the same faith and power of love that we who rejoice in his triumphs may come to share with him the fullness of the resurrection; 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.

EPC: Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Meridional (Brasil)

TUES 29 APR Mark the Evangelist (transferred from 25th April)

O Almighty God, who hast instructed thy holy Church with the heavenly doctrine of thy Evangelist Saint Mark: Give us grace, that, being not like children carried away with every blast of vain doctrine, we may be established in the truth of thy holy Gospel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Meru (Kenya)

WED 30 APR

Pandita Mary Ramabai, translator, 1922

Ever living God, you called the women at the tomb to witness to the resurrection of your Son: We thank you for the courageous and independent spirit of your servant Pandita Ramabai, the mother of modern India; and we pray that we, like her, may embrace your gift of new life, caring for the poor, braving resentment to uphold the dignity of women, and offering the riches of our culture to our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Mexico



Diocese of
Leicester
Shaped by God

AUGUST

- 04 - 07 *PARADOXES OF FAITH: Rediscovering Transfiguration with Andrew Mayes*
- 18 - 22 *TEXTILES RETREAT with Revd Claire Goode*
- 18 - 22 *GARDENING RETREAT with Karen & the Launde Abbey Team*
- 24 - 31 *INDIVIDUALLY GUIDED RETREAT with Rhona Knight*

SEPTEMBER

- 01 - 04 *THE PRACTICE OF JOY (CS Lewis Retreat) with Andrew Swinford*
- 19 - 21 *BEGINNERS RETREAT with the Launde Abbey Team*

OCTOBER

- 06 - 09 *ROOTED AND GROUNDED with the Launde Abbey Team & Renovaré*
- 13 - 15 *REDISCOVERING THE ANCIENT PATHS with Bernard of Clairvaux with Jenny Campbell*
- 20 - 23 *STEPPING INTO THE BIBLE with Peter Sills*

NOVEMBER

- 11 - 14 *LOOK AT THE BIRDS RETREAT with Mark Winter*
- 14 - 16 *MEDITATION AND THE CONTEMPORARY WISDOM OF MEISTER ECKHART with Chris Whittington*
- 17 - 20 *LIVING, BREATHING AND MOVING: Connecting with God with our whole body with Revd Rhona Knight*

DECEMBER

- 08 - 12 *ADVENT with the Launde Abbey Community*
- 08 - 12 *ICON PAINTING RETREAT with Peter Murphy*
- 09 - 12 *THE I AM SAYINGS with Rhona Knight*

Launde Abbey

Café

Take time out to soak up the tranquil and beautiful surroundings of Launde Abbey. Or for the more active, stride out and explore the rolling hills and woodland in this unspoilt corner of Leicestershire. Whatever your activity, come and find refreshment at the Launde Abbey café which serves a hot and cold menu and homemade cakes daily.

Away Days

Considering a parish or deanery away day this year? Or maybe your own private retreat? Come and experience the sanctuary that is Launde Abbey. Contact the team and we will help you plan your day.

For more information and to book please call or see our website

01572 717254

www.laundeabbey.org.uk

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Leicestershire LE7 9XB



