

HEALTHY PEOPLE/HEALTHY COMMUNITIES, OUR FRIDAY PRAYER THEME FOR JANUARY

'HEALTHY PEOPLE' is one of the workstreams 'that underpins and supports the realisation of our 2030 vision' in 'Our Shared Future' (see below). The welfare of those in workplaces – as individuals, as teams and as a whole organisation and Diocese is defined in relation to *Engagement, Resilience and Performance* by,

***A positive culture / An energising environment / Highly effective managers and leaders /
Strong working relationships / Job satisfaction / A healthy lifestyle***

These are the kinds of values all of us can embrace and pray for in 2024, in our churches, homes, schools and workplaces.

[How church communities can support each other's mental health](#)

[A new start for your wellbeing - from 2023](#)

The updated strategy – **"Our Shared Future – a framework for the Diocese of Coventry"** - was approved by the Diocesan Synod on 18th November 2023. *Each month we will be focusing our prayers across these areas.*

7 Workstreams

Healthy Churches
Healthy Communities
New Worshipping Communities

Children, Young People and Families
Growing Leaders

Renewing the Environment
Loving One Another

3 Underpinning Strategies

Healthy People
Renewing Generosity
Parish Support

Outcomes & Measures

Healthy churches

New worshipping communities (NWC)

Children and young people

Leaders

Generosity



OUR SHARED FUTURE 2030

Sunday 28th January 2024 Is World Leprosy Day

Bishop Saju Muthalaly, Bishop of Loughborough, is also an Assistant Bishop in our Diocese, supporting Bishop Ruth. He writes on his earliest experience of praying,

"I spent my childhood in a leprosy hospital, where my mother was a nurse, in the city of Bangalore. So, growing up, my friends were children whose parents lived with leprosy. But to me, they were just my friends – we flew kites, played marbles, and played cricket together.

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

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

'HEALTHY COMMUNITIES' - **meeting social, spiritual and practical needs of those we serve** is another point of focus for our prayers in January. "Helping and serving lies at the heart of our diocesan purpose to "transform communities". The need is greater than ever, since the health of local communities has been weakened by the pandemic – and is further threatened by the cost of living crisis. Churches, schools, chaplaincies and the cathedral are serving their local communities in a wide variety of imaginative ways – some of which are being supported by Diocesan Mission Fund grants. In partnership with Together for Change, the diocese is also supporting projects in the most deprived parishes. For example: Saints Nuneaton; our Rural Life Officers; youth work initiatives; support for poorer communities with food and fuel poverty; and support for refugees."

[Saints Nuneaton](#) / [Together For Change](#) / [Diocesan Mission Fund - next deadline 31 Dec 2023](#)

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. **2 Thess 1.11-12**



AD = Area Dean; C = Clergy; HT = Headteacher

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1st SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS Dec 31 <i>for Bishop Ruth & Bishop Saju</i>	WORKSTREAMS 1 for Healthy Churches	2 for Healthy Communities	3 for New Worshipping Communities	4 Children, Young People and Families	5 The health and wellbeing of all people in the Diocese.	EPIPHANY 6 <i>May be celebrated on Sunday, 7 January.</i>
1ST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY 7 <i>Baptism of Christ</i> to Grow Leaders that serve others with care	8 for Renewal of the Environment and Creation care	VACANCY OF SEE 9 19.00 a public meeting hosted by Crown Nominations Committee members.	10 The Bishop's Missional Business Community hold their Q1 gathering 6.30-9pm on 11 th January.	BSIG & BCST 11 for Bishop's Strategy Implementation Group & Bishop's Core Staff Team meet today.	12 Healthy cultures across every part of our Diocese.	13 To Love One Another in families, churches and the wider community.
2nd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY 14 <i>Diocesan Secretary – Jacqueline Ladds</i>	15 Renewing Generosity with finance and gifts	MISSION HUB LEADERS 16 gathering with Archdeacon Missioner	17 Parish Support by the Diocesan teams based at 1 Hilltop.	18 Diocesan Mission Fund Committee	19 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY (18-25 JANUARY)	20 For brothers and sisters in other churches and denominations
3rd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY 21 for ecumenical relations to receive good support	22 For the Chapel of Unity in Coventry Cathedral. <i>Dean - John Witcombe.</i>	23 Cathedral Chapter meeting; for clergy, staff and members of the Cathedral.	DAC 24 Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches.	<i>Conversion of Paul</i> 25 For those called to apostolic and prophetic ministry.	26 Healthy Communities, with churches a catalyst for change.	27 For those offering careers and vocational counselling
4th SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY 28 World Leprosy Day for friendships	29 for all living in poverty; for Christians Against Poverty advisors; for financial advisors.	30 For chaplains in both rural and urban areas offering support; for health & fitness centres.	31 For the helpless and homeless on streets across our Diocese. Gratitude for homes.	1 Feb for local foodbanks and charities across Diocese and community projects.	<i>Candlemas</i> 2 Feb PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE	

PRAYER DIARY

HOW TO CREATE A CULTURE OF NET THRIVING

What are the five key elements of wellbeing, according to Gallup research?

1. Career – is first for the best possible life (a prayer for others)
2. Social – having meaningful friendships (for the lonely)
3. Financial – manage your money well (for the poorest)
4. Physical – energy to get things done (for those struggling)
5. Community – like where you live (at home where you live)

Jim Clifton & Jim Harter *Wellbeing at Work* (2021)

“Our Mission Design aims to deliver key outcomes in response to contemporary challenges and opportunities we recognize. This includes our vision for numerical growth with spiritual depth, through development and launch of 150 new worshipping communities in a variety of contexts and traditions, in a mixed ecology approach.”
from [Our Shared Future](#) (November 2023)

Praying for the discerning process for a new Bishop of Coventry

[Vacancy in See - Diocese of Coventry](#) has updates on the latest opportunities to engage

A prayer created by the Vacancy in See Committee

Heavenly Father,
As we seek to appoint a new Bishop,
we pray you would inspire us as we work together.
Help us to be attentive to your promptings during this time of discernment
and by your Holy Spirit lead us on a sure path^a
for we are your servants seeking your divine wisdom.
Help us humbly to see as you see, to lay aside our preconceptions
and be open to your plans.
Just as you guided the prophet Samuel^b
to see more than was apparent in the natural
help us too with divine guidance throughout this time of discernment.
Lead us as we pray for your kingdom to come here in our diocese
and for Jesus' name to be honoured.
May grace and reconciliation underlie all we do for our part in this process.
Give us boldness as you draw us to a collective mind for your glory.
Amen

^a Psalm 143, ^b 1 Samuel 16

2024 - PRAYING FOR OUR MISSION DESIGN - A number of theological themes guide and shape our shared work in mission. These help us realise our vision inspired by Jesus' promise of abundant life in **John 10:10**, and our vision of Restored Health, New Growth and Renewed Relationships. (**2 Cor 5:18**)

1. Our vision for Healthy Churches. The Body of Christ, reconciled relationships with one another and with God through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. (**Jn 10:10, Jn 15, 2 Cor 5:18**)

2. A shared call and commission in the Missio Dei. Our participation in God's mission, enabled through the gift and life of the Holy Spirit to all God's people calling, inviting and sending us to make Christ known, to make new disciples and baptise them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (**Mat 28:16-20**)

3. The work of loving service. Service, social justice, and seeking the common good in our communities modelled by the early church emerging in the book of Acts.

4. To build up and build in. The church is called to be a community that builds one another up in love and nurture one another in worship, prayer and our common life. (**Rom 12:9-21, Eph 3:14-19, Eph 4:1-13, Phil 2:1-11, Col 2:1-6**)

5. The Pentecost outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This birthed the church of Jesus Christ enabling the commission of Christ to share the Good News in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth. (**Acts 1.8, Acts 2:1-47**)

- This call leads us to the familiar and the less familiar and to see God at work already especially in liminal or boundary places with people yet to own our faith.

- The early church grew as new boundaries and thresholds were crossed through the work of the Spirit – Acts 9. Peter and Cornelius and Paul's response to a dream which diverts his missionary trip from Troas in modern day Turkey to Macedonia in modern day Greece to plant the first European church. (**Acts 16:9-15**)

6. God's mission imperative. As described by Jesus in his 'Nazareth manifesto'. (**Luke 4 & Isaiah 61**)

- To serve our communities, with a special focus on the poor and marginalized.

- Our shared participation as those called and anointed by the Spirit of God.

- Love, recognition, value, welcome and inclusion of those often unseen, unheard and excluded (Modelled in Jesus' ministry to 'tax collectors & sinners', The Samaritan women at the well etc.).

7. Declaration. How can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. (**Romans 10:8-17**) Given our mission context, our shared call, reverence for Christ with lives that give glory to God, our mission design will resource and build confidence in renewing whole life vocation of God's people, evangelism or witness, and sharing the reason for our hope (**1 Peter 3.13-18**). Inspired by Peter and Cornelius in **Acts 9**, we seek to follow the fresh wind of the Holy Spirit in recognising 'Kairos' moments that lead us to cross new thresholds for growing faith, reaching new people, and founding new faith communities.

FOR PRAYER

Spend time reading and reflecting on each of these considerations and concerns – allow them to inform your prayer for your own life of Christian service and mission, and for your local church and local community in 2024.

