

HEALTHY CHURCHES, TRINITARIAN COMPASS

The Healthy Church theme has been central to our Diocese for more than ten years, and remains a strategic focus in plans for the future.

One thing which remains true today is what is called the 'Trinitarian Compass' – the ways that anyone can encounter God. **GREEN** represents the 'reflective side' with a focus on tolerance and social justice – addressing themes such as peace, ecology and reconciliation. **BLUE** represents the 'affective side', with a focus on spiritual power and emotional health, while **RED** classically has an evangelical focus, and one where discipleship and discipling show the 'proactive side' of church life. We think that all three are deserving of our attention, and are found aplenty in the Diocese. How balanced are they?

from 1st to 4th July

**PRAY
YOUR
PART**

21 Days of Prayer and Reflection
for the General Election

Pray Your Part: General Election 2024 | The
Church of England #PrayYourPart

SPIRITUAL BALANCE - HOW?

The challenge for churches and individual Christians across our Diocese is to find **spiritual balance** within the **Trinitarian Compass**. Which of these is most and least developed in your own church, and indeed in your own life? Natural Church Development has emphasized the importance of focusing on the least developed in order to 'contribute to greater balance.'

Our Diocese is addressing the weaknesses of the 'red zone', by resourcing Urban Plants and Mission Hubs and enabling churches to reach out more confidently with the Good News of Jesus Christ. **The aspiration is to be a Christ-centred Diocese.**

The 'green zone' values research and reasoning which can shape our agenda on Net Zero, on developing safe spaces in in Diocese, and other **policies and practices which will reflect Godly values.**

It has long been felt that the 'blue zone' is an area to focus on in the Diocese, too. New services and ministries create quiet spaces, prayer ministry strengthens in some churches, worship encounters happen in many different ways. **We value the ministry of spiritual accompaniers within the Diocese, aiming to deepen a more passionate spirituality.**

There are associated dangers with each of these, of course – rationalism, emotionalism, activism – so the recommendation is to strengthen the other areas in pursuit of radical balance, rather than suffering conflict!

sourced from Christian Schwarz (2005) '**Colour Your World with Natural Church Development**,' pages 45-71

Reflective – Affective – Proactive

SHAPING OUR PRAYER TOGETHER

Creation – Holiness – Salvation

Prayers of thanks for and care of creation. For our farming communities, for the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, for rewilding efforts.

For the wellbeing of individuals and churches where God's presence may be felt in special services such as Taize and in healing services.

Prayers for people to meet Jesus, for them to develop in their knowledge and faith in God, through teaching, small groups, and preaching.

God above us – God in us – God among us

Prayers that expand our sense of the majesty and transcendence of God, for our appreciation of the creative powers at work in the universe.

Prayer that makes us aware of God's presence within us, building our trust and confidence in our own journeyings with God.

The excitement of encountering Jesus, and seeing others come to faith, being baptized and confirmed in our churches each year.

You shall! – You can! – You may!

The appeal – societal aspects of church life

The empowerment – the spirituality of church

The invitation – the welcome from our church

Science – Experience – Scripture

The reliability of careful factual observation

The validation of faith by experience

The authority of Scripture to shape and guide

How might we vary our prayer life in these ways?
How might our intercessions develop?

AD = Area Dean C = Clergy All schools listed here are CofE H = Headteacher EH = Executive Head HoS = Head of School P= Principal L: Leader

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
PRAY YOUR PART X Prayer and reflection for the General Election	Prisons – 1 show your mercy on prisoners and refugees and all in trouble, need or	DIOCESAN SYNOD 2 The Justice System – bless those who administer the law	Technology - 3 Help us to use developments in science to heal and not to hurt	Good Government - 4 God grant ... unity, peace and concord	8 EQS FOR CHURCHES 5 EMPOWERING LEADERSHIP	6 LOVING RELATIONSHIPS
6 th AFTER TRINITY 7 COVENTRY SOUTH DEANERY AD David Hammond	8 Eastern Green – C Jo Joyce	9 St Andrews Primary School, Eastern Green	10 Earlsdon – C Tulo Raistrick	11 DIOCESAN ENVIRONMENT GROUP; SUPPORT FUND	12 INSPIRING WORSHIP	13 EFFECTIVE STRUCTURES
7 th AFTER TRINITY 14 Allesley Park/Whoberley C Andy March	15 St John's Academy Primary School, Allesley Park	16 Bridge Benefice – C David Hammond	17 Fletchamstead – C Interregnum	18 Burton Green Primary School	19 HOLISTIC SMALL GROUPS	20 PASSIONATE SPIRITUALITY
8 th AFTER TRINITY 21 Garden of Hope at St John's, Westwood	22 Tile Hill – C Ed Backhouse; Urban Plant	23 Cathedral Chapter	24 Leigh Academy Primary School, Tile Hill	25 Finham – C Matt Taylor	26 NEED ORIENTATED OUTREACH	27 GIFT-BASED MINISTRY
9 th AFTER TRINITY 28 The Diocesan enablers, Mission Hubs and Deaneries focused on Healthy Church.	29 Styvechale – C Josh Maynard	30 Chapelfields – C Edward Le Bran Powell	31 Cheylesmore – C Arthur Woo	In the Leading Your Church Into Growth programme, one of the fundamentals is 'creating a prayerful culture of Church Growth'; the culture is underpinned by this prayer, God of mission, who alone brings growth to your Church, Send your Holy Spirit to give Vision to our planning, Wisdom to our actions, Joy to our worship, and power to our witness. Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, And in service to our local community, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.		

PRAYER DIARY

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God. Rom 13.1

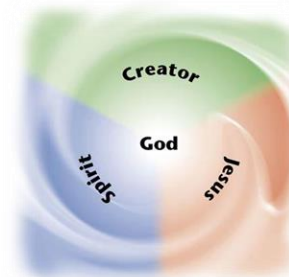
Prayer for government and opposition parties

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth, and all mankind, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting. Amen

at the General Election, UK, 4 July 2024

PRAY YOUR PART X

The Trinitarian Compass



BEING HEALTHY CHURCH

Christian Schwarz writes, "Frequently at Christian Conferences I have heard appeals that sound like "All of us have to What everybody needs is The key for your life is" Whenever I hear this, I am relatively sure that those speakers, while making helpful suggestions for about one third of the audience, lead the other two thirds in the wrong direction. Since everyone has a different starting point, everyone needs different guidance."

SPECIFIC DAYS IN JULY 2024

7 – Coventry South Deanery Area Dean, David Hammond; Tim Pollard, Lay Chair

8 – St Andrew's, Eastern Green –give thanks for a growing sense of mission among our congregation and for new comers to faith resulting from that. We would like prayer that we could grow our numbers of volunteers to enable us to meet the missional needs of our parish. C Lynette Clark (PTO), Sue Masters.

9 – St Andrews CofE Primary School, Eastern Green H – Allison Underhill

10 – St Barbara's, Earlsdon We thank God for our mid-week services, both for parents, carers and pre-school children, and for retirees and elderly, as these meet a real need in our community. Please pray for the young families that join us for our monthly Sunday afternoon service to feel more integrated into the overall life of the church. C – Jeremy Bevan

14 – St Christopher's, Allesley Park & Whoberley R – Nic Thorpe

15 – St John's Academy Primary School, Allesley Park H – Laura Stevenson

16 – Bridge Benefice – St John's Westwood & St Stephen's Canley C – Erin Gilmour, Caroline Hammond R – Andrew Smith

17 – St James's, Fletchamstead Interregnum. R – Helen Kearney, Tim Pollard

18 – Burton Green CofE Primary School EH – Andrew Morris; DH – Stella Villiers

22 – St Oswald's, Tile Hill

24 – Leigh Academy Primary School, Tile Hill H – Lynn Lee

25 – St Martin's, Finham We thank God for answered prayer in the amazing recovery of our curate Rev John Samuel who suffered a stroke in May this year. We are currently looking for a new Children and Families worker to continue connecting with our families and local schools. C – Matt Ford, John Samuel R – Andrew Barclay

29 – St James's, Styvechale We thank God for the launch of our new monthly evening service and recent baptism service. Please pray as we have a focus on *Growing Together* that people discover new skills and gifts as we seek to serve one another and the community and City around us. R – Barbara Carr (PTO)

30 – St Mary Magdalene, Chapelfields We give thanks to God for our work in mission and outreach, especially in and through the Blue Roof Coffee Project. May God richly bless his church in Chapelfields.

31 – Christ Church, Cheylesmore Praise God that the introduction of Inductive Bible Study has started several new small groups. Our new youth group has become a fun and sociable group that has embraced unchurched parents. We installed new windows in the hall that move us closer to our ECO goals. Please join us in praying for churchwardens (we have none), more willing volunteers (many of our folk have moved away) and our increasingly fragile finances. We maintain hope for Fishers starting, but much more prayer is needed to find young adults who want to live in Christian community. Pray we keep praying, and not find ourselves too busy to pray. R – Tony Price

C = Clergy R = Reader H = Headteacher

WHAT DOES HEALTHY CHURCH LOOK LIKE IN 2024?

Rev Clive Hicks, Healthy Churches Development Enabler

Many in the Diocese would connect '*Healthy Church*' to the metaphors and principles established by Christian Schwarz, alongside the continuing relevance of an ecologically-aligned strategy:-

* **All by itself growth** (NCD) – one set of principles, among many;

* **Rewilding** (and eco church) – restating and revitalizing NCD underlying principles;

* **Gardens** or dietary balance – picking up strengths and weaknesses in general;

but here are another twelve potential contributing metaphors or work strands for 'healthy churches' - no doubt others could be added. Each will be considered to be high status by different clergy and lay leaders across the Diocese.

1. **Safe Spaces and Safeguarding** – mandatory actions and culture change, already highlighted by the National Church and Diocese as a core concern;
2. **Relational Capital & Emotional Health** – the healthy church as a resource rather than a drain (links with Peter Scazzero's work); the most relevant church may be the one that 'waits' for God (associated with Andrew Root);
3. **Peacemaking: Connecting with Societal Dynamics e.g. Living in Love and Faith** – responses, the implications for our Diocese in terms of conflicts resolving and reconciliation. Many different facets of society including politics and equality.
4. **Healing and health** - e.g. facilitated through programmes of training and confidence like Healthy Healing Hubs [Go Health], can also be considered a serious priority under the Healthy Churches constellation of engagements - rooted in continuing concerns about clergy and congregational wellbeing .
5. **Financial stability (Generous Giving)** – what questions are being raised? e.g. '*Giving the Church*' – looking at the Christian community in missiology and ecclesiology (from Michael Moynagh's new book)
6. **Community Ownership and the State of buildings** - Diocesan work led by our own Claire Strachan and Matt Jermyn.
7. **Institution and Innovation / Organisational Health** - Pat Lencioni work addressing organizational culture, issues such as the effectiveness of the organization and 'institutional intelligence' (Gordon Smith);
8. **Statistical indicators** (attendance, dashboards), including the '**resilience**' of churches in a multifaceted sense, relating for example to the inclusion of children and young people, and actual numeric growth of churches
9. **Biblical doctrine and theological purity** - a more conservative perspective on church health; '*the Church's unity of belief around core convictions was the ultimate factor of the Church's success*' (Michel Therrien)
10. **Capacity to innovate / the inclusion of multiple gifts** including environmentalists, commercial and social entrepreneurs and children-family-youth-community workers at the heart of church communities. '*Adaptive church*' (Dustin Benac)

11. **The primacy of discipling intensity within the church community** – critical strategy within a significant number of mission hubs and churches, whether through individual or group influence.
12. **'Liberation' - addressing current Social and Community needs** effectively – engagement with the poor, racial justice, reaching refugees and asylum seekers, supporting farming communities in rural areas; the 'thickness' of engagement by congregations with their communities (Gregg Okesson)

PRAYER JOTTINGS – JULY 2024

- Excerpts from Mark Oakley *The Collage of God* and Chris Webb *God Soaked Life* books
 From Chris Webb – **Creating Community** (chapter 6) – writing of one of the early fourth century monastic communities, we read (p. 131), **'All the prayer, work, study, service, silence, and obedience of the monks was designed to create the perfect environment for love to flourish: a deep and abiding love of God, and a wholehearted, overflowing love for one another.'** Jesus expected this unbounded, ever-open love to be the hallmark of his followers (p 136), and 'those who claim to have placed Christ at the centre of their lives must above all, it is often asserted, be those who reach out with the message of Christ to others.' (p 137).
 'The call to love is vast: rooted in the very structuring of creation, encompassing everything that lives and breathes, summoning us to give our uttermost to God and one another. But as with so many other aspects of our lives, it begins small and often finds expression in small but significant ways.' (p. 142) 'The opportunities for us to practice gentleness and kindness in our day-to-day lives, to give other people the gift of dignity and significance, are manifold; they present themselves to us almost constantly. Every interaction and conversation opens up the potential for us to share – and receive – grace (p. 145).'
- From Mark Oakley – **Praying** (chapter 5) – begins by quoting Karl Barth, **'To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world'**. It is, he says, 'the glue with which the collage is being pieced together' (p 65). 'Prayer is first and foremost the response of the created self towards the eternity of its creator. It is the recognition that we are dependent beings, limited, exposed and frail. Prayer beckons us out of ourselves and awakens in us our longing for the Holy and Eternal One' ... he says that the ancient Assyrians used the same word for prayer as for the 'act of unclenching a fist. (p 68)'. Prayer is 'becoming like a child for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven' (p 69) 'It seems to me that the one who prays is engaged in the business of

finding his or her place in this divine dance of grace.... Intercession enables the music to play on' (p 72). He concludes with R S Thomas,

**Prayers like gravel flung at the sky's window,
 hoping to attract the loved one's attention.
 But without visible plaits to let down for the believer to climb up,
 To what purpose open that far casement?
 I would have refrained long since
 but that peering once through my locked fingers
 I thought that I detected the movement of a curtain. *Kneeling***

THE GLOBAL CHURCH

John Pritchard in *The Second Intercessions Handbook* (2004, SPCK) –

Let us pray for the Church and for the churches, and rejoice with our neighbours around the world ...
 Lord, hear us as we pray for the churches of other denominations in our neighbourhood ... May they prosper in every way; may people come to faith there, and may their witness in the community be clear and attractive.
 Lord, hear us as we pray for a bigger vision in our church life. Take us out of our small world of local Christian activities.
 Lord, hear us as we pray for the parts of your Church which are suffering today ... when faith and evil clash, the stakes are high. Lord, make our spirits restless for justice, and our prayers serious for freedom; and never let us forget our brothers and sisters in pain
 Lord, hear us as we pray for the future of the global Church. May we recognize the need for one united witness to a world which plays daily with the vicious toys of death, and it deeply corrupted by its desire for power and wealth. May the Church be a joyful alternative to these values; may we speak fearlessly but tenderly to the world for which Christ died
 Lord of the Church, hear us as we look to you for vision and energy in these testing days. Renew your Church throughout the world – and start with us. **Amen.**

- Each month **we focus on a different Deanery; this month it is Coventry South.** *In August we will be praying for Shipston Deanery, Warwick & Leamington in September and in October, Coventry East Deanery. I look forward to receiving updates from area deans and clergy, and anyone else with specific prayer requests.*
- **Coming up – the Themes for the next 3 months are, Parish Support (August), Growing Faith (September) and Loving One Another (October).** *Do consider sending me your prayer suggestions, and any other jottings.*

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