



GPS

GLOBAL POSITIONING SUNDAY – 18th June 2017

Resources from the World Mission Department to Celebrate God's Worldwide Church



Jesus Christ – The Heart of Mission

The Mission Department is energised in its work by the belief that God in Christ is both the author and fulfilment of all Christian mission and is the embodiment of God's mission here on earth.

He made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment; to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

Ephesians 1.9,10

Global Positioning Sunday is offered as an opportunity for parishes to renew their understanding of the worldwide, multi-cultural nature of the Church through a themed act of worship. As we so often say... "we are part of the worldwide Church", it's important to turn this phrase around and say with equal conviction... "The worldwide Church is part of us".

The timing of Global Positioning Sunday has been deliberately chosen to immediately follow the Feasts of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. This emphasises the connection of these feasts with the Church's mission in the world. God's sovereign choice to bring to birth the Church in the context of an international festival in Jerusalem brings to the fore his intention of its global nature. To be witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth brings a natural inculturation to the Gospel. This



The Church of England around Staffordshire, northern Shropshire and the Black Country

process adds richness and relevance to the Gospel message as it is proclaimed in various settings. Experiencing these differences can help us see the outworking of God's saving love in new and exciting ways which cause us to grow in knowledge, truth and commitment.

We are keen for this to be an annual opportunity to focus on our place in God's world-wide church. The Parish of Tettenhall Wood last year allocated four consecutive weeks for a GPS season. If the particular proposed date of 18th June is not convenient for you please feel free to choose a date that is.

The following suggestions will hopefully provide you with ideas for liturgies around themed worship, fellowship and teaching designed to allow a more thorough understanding of global and cross-cultural mission in your own context.

1. Resources for a Eucharist
2. Resources for All-Age worship
3. Resources for a Bible Study
4. Recipes for a Fellowship Meal
5. Further Resources including *Powerpoint presentation* for GPS

1) RESOURCES FOR EUCHARIST

Old Testament Reading - Zechariah 8:20-23

This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Many peoples and the inhabitants of many cities will yet come, and the inhabitants of one city will go to another and say, 'Let us go at once to entreat the Lord and seek the Lord Almighty. I myself am going.' And many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the Lord Almighty and to entreat him." This is what the Lord Almighty says: "In those days ten people from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, 'Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you.'

Responsorial Psalm: (96:1-2, 3, 7-8, 9-10)

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all you lands.

Sing to the Lord; bless his name. **(R/. All you peoples of the earth proclaim the wonders of God.**

Announce his salvation, day after day.

Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds. **(R/.)**

Give to the Lord, you families of nations,
give to the Lord glory and might;
give to the Lord the glory due his name! **(R/.)**

Bring gifts and enter his courts;
bow down to the Lord, splendid in holiness.
Tremble before God, all the earth;
say among the nations: The Lord is king. **(R/.)**

New Testament Reading - Revelation 7:9-17

I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no-one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." All the angels were standing round the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honour and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!" Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes - who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat.

For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Gospel Reading - Mark 10.35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do for us whatever we ask." "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptised with the baptism I am baptised with?" "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "You will drink the cup I drink and be baptised with the baptism I am baptised with, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared." When the ten heard about this, they became indignant with James and John. Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must



be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

A Collect:

O God, you have made into one family all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and those who are near: grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you, bring the nations into your fold, pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A Short Intercession:

Together with all the churches who have taken their place in the universal Church, but especially those to which our diocese relates and works, we pray today that the gospel may reach all, and we say: **R/ God, let all the nations praise you.**

With the church in Qu’Appelle, we pray for vision as wide as the nation in which they are set and the gift of courage to proclaim Christ in creative and engaging ways, and so we say: **R/.**

With the church in Matlosane, we pray for ministry which will reach out into communities bringing hope and the means to establish that quality of life which Jesus came to bring: and so we pray: **R/.**

With the churches of the Province of South East Asia: West Malaysia, Singapore, Kuching and Sabah, we pray for communities with a commitment to growth and discipleship particularly considering their position as a religious minority, for the continued planting and establishment of new congregations: and so we pray: **R/.**

With the church in Northern Germany, we pray for strength to rediscover the gospel where, through historic, political action it has been lost. We pray for the ongoing work for reconciliation and building new futures: and so we pray: **R/.**

For the worldwide Church we pray that through a commitment to partnership, it may be ever transformed to reflect God’s vision for its unity and mission in presenting the Good News of his Son; and so we pray: **R/.**

Lord our God, let the life and message of your Son bring your love to all peoples of this earth and make us all one family united in your Son, Jesus Christ our lord. **Amen.**

An Offertory Prayer:

Lord our God, what riches we discover in the various cultures and peoples of this earth! As we bring before you these humble gifts of bread and wine we pray you that all the nations may offer to you the treasures of their talents and lifestyle made holy by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer after Communion:

God our Father, we have sat at the table of Jesus your Son, we have listened to his challenging word and have eaten his bread of life and strength. We pray you to hasten the day when people from all nations and cultures may sit with us at the same table and be one with us in your Son and sing together to you with our many voices one harmonious symphony of praise. We ask you this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Blessing:

Saint Paul declares that where people accept the risen Lord Jesus, there is no Gentile or Jew, no more slave or free person, male or female, for the same Spirit is alive in all and we are all one in Christ, with one Father for all. Let us eagerly seek the outworking of this truth amongst us and contribute to it by the way we live. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

2) RESOURCES FOR ALL - AGE WORSHIP

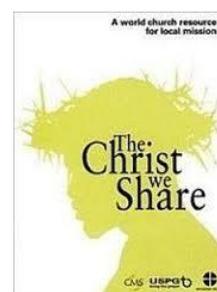
Resources

Set the scene

Music Choose some background music from around the World such as Putumayo World Music. There are plenty of songs and hymns from the world church you could learn; try 'World Praise' by Marshall Pickering or settings by John Bell from the Iona Community.

Table cloths Find some fabric to decorate a table and put some interesting objects on it, perhaps collected from holidays abroad. If safe to do so, put a candle and holder on the table. Put some pictures around the room showing Jesus as shown in a number of different cultures e.g. from <http://cms-shop.org.uk/p/8788919/the-christ-we-share.html>

Offer some snacks with an international flavour, e.g. from Aldi, IKEA, a



local Polish or Asian supermarket or fairly traded fruit juices or hot drinks.

Children's church / All Age ideas

Activities

1. Can you find our companion links in an **atlas**? Qu'Appelle in Saskatchewan, Canada; Matlosane in North West Province, South Africa; Singapore, West Malaysia and Kuching in South East Asia; and Nordkirche in Northern Germany.
2. The Christ We Share. <http://www.cms-shop.org.uk/p/8788919/the-christ-we-share.html> Look at the Maria Christina Gomez cross from El Salvador. Why do you think that these images were included on this cross? Use this example to draw your own Christ.
3. What links does your church have with the 'World that has come here'? Where do your neighbours come from? Think of the membership of your local primary schools, the staff at nearby residential homes or medical practice or some of your local shops.
4. Migration and the plight of Asylum Seekers and Refugees continues to be highlighted in the news. Look up some contemporary examples; see what is happening near to you or share the experience of a centre like Sanctus in Stoke on Trent <http://www.sanctusstmarks.co.uk/>
5. Think about the words of John 1:14 from the Message version of the Bible. *Jesus became flesh and moved into the neighbourhood.* Where would Jesus live if he moved into your neighbourhood?
6. Watch the Newsboys on Youtube and think about the lyrics.
7. **Prayer with a map of the world.** Lay out a large map of the world on the floor or on a wall so that everyone can see it. (available from The Works or as a shower curtain at £6.99 <http://bit.ly/2qHKjiz>). Or project a map of the world. Invite the group members to think of one of the countries they can see and pray for the people there. Ask people where they have been abroad on holidays or to locate a country mentioned in the news and to identify that on the map. Draw attention to our companion links in Qu'Appelle in Saskatchewan, Canada; Matlosane in North West Province, South Africa; Singapore, West Malaysia and Kuching in South East Asia; and Nordkirche in Northern Germany. Stick a star/post-it note/night light on the country you are thinking of.

(World Maps can be downloaded by using a search engine).

Prayer with a globe. Spin a globe and pray for the country you land on. Throw an inflatable globe around the group, the person who catches the ball/globe names a country to pray for. Or have fun throwing the globe(s) around the congregation as you sing a hymn or song as a way of celebrating our part in God's world-wide church. These can be purchased for £1.38 each.



<http://bit.ly/2p8yfWt>

Praying for the persecuted church. Excellent resources are available from organisations such as *Christian Solidarity Worldwide* <http://www.csw.org.uk/home.htm> or *Open Doors* which has a prayer picker activity sheet to guide prayer for the persecuted church <http://bit.ly/1RdtWEt> or *Barnabas in Churches* has a prayer pot idea for children to make. Instead of a person, you could help the children write the name of a country or people group. <http://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/prayer-pots/>

3) RESOURCES FOR A BIBLE STUDY

Revelation 7: 9-17

In John's vision of worship in heaven there are 'people from every nation, tribe people and language' (v9 NIV)

1. In what ways does your church worship reflect this vision of the Kingdom of God
2. How can worshipping with people who are 'not like us' enhance our worship and understanding of God?
3. How can we work towards the vision which Rev 7 sets before us?

Ephesians 2: 14-18

The writer of Ephesians is pointing out how Gentiles and Jews are now all one through Christ... even though previously they may have thought they had little in common.

1. In v 14 we read how Christ has 'destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility'. What are the barriers and hostilities between people in your community (and perhaps your church?)
2. Why does the writer of the letter say that Jews and Gentiles are now one?
3. If this applied to Jews and Gentile division in Ephesus – is it still true for the divisions we know of?
4. If Christ has 'made us one', what can we do to make this a practical reality in our churches and communities?

4) WORLD FOOD RECIPES FOR A FELLOWSHIP MEAL OR SNACK

Drinks and snacks Fair trade tea and coffee with fair trade nuts, fruit or chocolates

Light meals Soup with an exotic loaf of bread (see *World Food Café* by Caroline and Chris Caldicott). Many low cost supermarkets such as Aldi sell German food items which would be familiar in our German companion Link.

Hot meals Chakalaka and maize meal (pap). This is a South African dish of spicy vegetables and beans. <http://www.nigella.com/recipes/view/south-african-chakalaka-4984>

For a South East Asian meal, try a stir fry with green vegetables such as Pat Pak Ruam Mitr Just get the Maple Syrup out to connect with our Canadian partners in Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan!

5) FURTHER RESOURCES – Books, Songs, Prayers, Powerpoints

Books:

- Prayers Encircling The World.
An International Anthology of 300 Contemporary Prayers (SPCK)
- Prayers from the East: Traditions of Eastern Christianity
[Richard Marsh](#) (SPCK)
- Hallelujah for the Day – An African Prayer Book (Liguori Publications)
- 600 Blessings and Prayers from Around the World
Geoffrey Duncan (Twenty-Third Publications)
- An African Prayer Book - Desmond Tutu – Ed (Image)
- World-Shaped Mission (Report) – Janice Price (Church House)

Songs:

- Santo, santo, santo; Holy, holy, holy, (Argentina)
- Siyahamba; We are Marching (South Africa)
- Halle, halle, hallelujah! (Caribbean)
- Jesu tawa pano; Jesus, we are here (Zimbabwe)
- Wa wa wa emimimo ; Come O Holy Spirit, come (Nigeria)
- He's got the whole world in his hands (Unknown)
- Glory to God in the Highest (Peruvian Gloria)
- Thuma mina; Send me Lord (South Africa)

(These World Songs can be found in World Praise as well as in a number of Iona publications)

Prayers

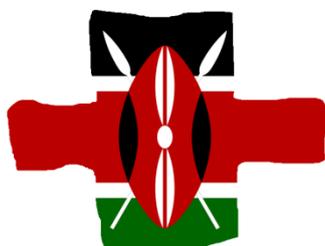
May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done

(Fourfold Franciscan Blessing)



From the cowardice that dare not face new truth;
From the laziness that is content with half-truth;
From the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth;
Good Lord, deliver me. Amen

(From Kenya, 365 Days of Yes CMS 2012)

The cross is the strength of the weak
The cross is the hope of the hopeless
The cross is the freedom of the slaves
The cross is the water of the seeds
The cross is the consolation of the bonded labourers
The cross is the source of those who seek water
The cross is the cloth of the naked.
The cross is the way of the lost
The cross is the staff of the lame
The cross is the guide of the blind



(from a 10th century African hymn)

Minister All our problems

People **We send to the cross of Christ** (sweep of hands to West)

Minister All our difficulties

People **We send to the cross of Christ** (sweep of hands to West)

Minister All the devil's works

People **We send to the cross of Christ** (sweep of hands to West)

Minister All our hopes

People **We set on the risen Christ** (sweep of hands to East)

(from Order from Holy Communion; Church of the Province of Kenya)



Other prayers for the wider Anglican Communion and our links in particular can be found in the Diocesan Prayer Diary https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/prayer_diary/ including prayers for our Link Dioceses on each Sunday morning. Do encourage people to use the excellent PrayerMate app for which there is a direct feed from the Lichfield Diocesan Prayer Diary.

Powerpoint

Two PowerPoint presentations have been prepared along with notes to accompany them. The full version has been prepared which could be used as the principal resource in a talk, sermon or presentation; the shorter version introduces our four Diocesan links and gives an introduction to GPS. This could be used in the early part of the service. Notes have also been included in the ppts and are also available separately.

Longer: Powerpoint at <http://bit.ly/2rqLape>, Text at <http://bit.ly/2rqeStE>

Shorter: Powerpoint at <http://bit.ly/2rqbFdw>, Text at <http://bit.ly/2rqjTSR>

