

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25 Jan 2023
Be-Longing: Praying for Unity amidst Injustice

The murder of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis in May 2020 was described as a watershed moment. There was a sense that the global wave of solidarity that brought people out onto the streets during a pandemic would make it impossible to ignore the deadly consequences of institutional racism and the power imbalances that deny human dignity.

The **Black Lives Matter** movement has certainly sparked uncomfortable yet necessary conversations, shaking the complacency that allowed racism and xenophobia to slip down the agendas of political and civic leaders alike. It has also questioned their reliance on legislation to protect people's rights and challenged the failure to invest in the deeper work of examining the quality of our relationships in society, the attitudes that shape them and the language that defines them.

Yet with each passing year we see continued evidence that, across the world, the powerful institutions of the state continue to treat people differently based on race, ethnicity and other facets of identity that are protected in legislation. Those who live in fear are still waiting for their watershed moment.

Despite the heightened awareness of the nature and consequences of racism in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement there is a persistent resistance to dialogue about issues of power and privilege, exclusion and alienation in society. Christians bring to this dialogue a vision of reconciliation grounded in mercy and faithfulness, justice and peace, from which we draw hope for the healing of relationships.

For this **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** we are guided by the churches of Minneapolis as we seek to explore how the work of Christian unity can contribute to the promotion of racial justice across all levels of society. Through this resource, the CTBI writers' group has also focussed our attention on the 30th anniversary of the murder of Stephen Lawrence, which we mark this year. The work of restoring hope through justice undertaken in Stephen's memory continues to inspire and change lives for the better.

As we join with other Christians around the world for this year's Week of Prayer, we pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which racism continues to destroy lives, and to discern the steps we can take as individuals and communities, to heal the hurts and build a better future for everyone.

Dr. Nicola Brady, General Secretary,
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI)
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St Mark's 170th Anniversary - please do continue to peruse the exhibition of "historical documents" and as well as the items for sale in our display cabinet, including the **£5 Anniversary magazine.**
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Calling adult male parishioners who live close to St. Mark's and may be willing to lock up the Church Hall after late party bookings, around 11pm. Please let Donald, Simon, Cicelyn or Jan know if you're able to help in this way.

Welcome to the United Benefice of South Norwood Holy Innocents and St. Mark

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



15th January 2023

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Roxanne F. Eversley
Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley
Reader: Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

8.00am BCP Mass (St. Mark)
10am Parish Mass (both Parishes)

*Isaiah 49.1-7 * Psalm 40.1-2 * 1 Corinthians 1.1-9 * John 1.29-42*

Access online worship via
www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

CHURCH NOTICES

Pastoral Care: *Mother Roxanne is back from holiday next Sunday.* In her absence and should you need to, please direct enquiries to the Churchwardens (Donald – 07904 226264, Laurél – 07904 237272 or John – 07455 599909), Cicelyn – 07484 677951 or Mother Susan - 07890 780572, noting she is not available on Fridays.

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We pray: for Archbishops Justin and Stephen; for our Bishops in this diocese - Christopher, Rosemarie, Karowei and Bishop Designate of Kingston, Martin Gainsborough.

For the Bishops, clergy and people in our link Dioceses in Zimbabwe.

For the Bishops, priests, deacons & people of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

For All Saints, Blackheath Nicholas Cranfield (Vicar); William Chatterton (Asst. Priest); Claire Dowding (Reader); **All Saints CofE** (JM&I) School.

For the sick – Richard, Jennifer & Reuben, Rose, Caroline, Susan, Pauline, Sigi, Marie-Gabrielle, Colin (Castle), Carmen, Rodney, Marina, Karen, Linda, Fred and Fr. Tom Hurcombe.

The bereaved – the Onyiaike, Irono, Maginley and Forrest families.

The recently departed – Fidelia Onyiaike, Elecia Maginley and Helen Forrest. **Years Mind.**

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If you were still able to provide items from the list below to Nightwatch, they can be dropped off any Sunday after 8.30pm to Friends Meeting House, 60 Park Lane, Croydon CR0 1JE:

Tinned meat soup (they have loads of veg); Jars of pasta sauce (they give out a lot of pasta in the grocery bags they distribute); Packets of pasta; Tinned meals (meatballs, pies, spaghetti bolognese); Pot noodles; Individual care packages typically including a few masks, hand gel, soap, deodorant; Pack of tissues; Drinks - water or cans; blankets and sleeping bags, coats, hats, scarves, gloves and new underwear.