

Cycle of Prayer

2 April 2017 - 12 August 2017



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Chester

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Key:

C = Clergy

LM = Licensed Lay Minister

(Reader)

(Pastoral Worker)

(Youth Worker)

Diocesan entries from the Anglican Cycle of Prayer are in italics.

Foreword



A certain Thomas Buxton said this about prayer:

'You know the value of prayer: it is precious beyond all price. Never, never neglect it.'

So, set aside a time (or times) each day where you can pray and be open to receiving and responding to God's love. Calm and still yourself; pay attention to your breathing. Read some Scripture.

You might like to use prayers written by others or the Daily Office, or you might prefer to use your own words. If you do, be yourself. Talk honestly and openly to God. Don't stuff your prayers with lots of words. True prayer is about setting self aside (or losing our life as Jesus puts it) and wanting God instead. You might simply want to sit in silence in God's presence. A bishop once came across a working man praying by himself in church and asked him what he was doing. 'I look at Him and He looks at me' was the reply.

Pray from out of a sense of thankfulness for your life and from the love that God wants you to have for others. Ask that your faith would develop and mature and that God would help you to grow in the 'fruit of the Holy Spirit'. Ask for forgiveness and tell God that you love him. Ask too that God would strengthen you to deal with what each day brings. Name what is on your heart or what troubles you: situations in your life and the lives of those you love. Pray for your church, your local community, for world events. Use the Cycle of Prayer to give structure to what you ask for. Ask for God's blessing and healing presence, and that his kingdom of love, forgiveness and justice would come.

Be persistent with your prayers; keep going. Prayer benefits us so much. We most truly love when we are praying in God's presence, and that love spills out (probably gradually, as the years unfold) into what we do and say to transform us more and more into the likeness of Christ.

Vivien Gisby

Warden of Pastoral Workers and Vicar of St John's, Weston



Welcome



The postie cheerily calls across the street, 'Say one for me, will ya?' as two of his familiar householders make their way towards the open church door. The cynic too easily dismisses the request as nothing more than friendly customer relations. Indeed it may be called folk religion or superstition, and thus immediately relegated to the less than proper. Although the prayer request is marked with humour it deserves serious

attention. The humour may hide a certain embarrassment, but the comment itself is expressing a genuine sympathy with the idea of prayer. Many more people admit their belief in prayer than ever cross the threshold of a church.

Our atomised society creates personal isolation as an increasing threat. With the benefits of wide individual choice and personalised preference in lifestyles come the cost of loneliness and social distancing, despite the so-called social media. It is almost as if we are losing something of the facility for social gathering beyond our immediate family and acquaintances.

Even if 'say one for me' doesn't refer to a mutually recognised understanding of God, it does still unite us in other things. Lives are connected, however briefly, and concerns shared. Prayer remains an act that connects us to our common humanity. Those of us who pray from within the faith of the Church should never dismiss prayerful longings in others. We all have a part in 'saying one' for one another.

Contributions and ideas that might help that praying are always welcome; please submit them to jane.hood@chester.anglican.org by 26th May at the latest, for the next edition.

Christopher Burkett
Editor and Director of Ministry.

2 April - Emergency First Responders



Fifth Sunday of Lent

Being a Christian in the Ambulance service is in my eyes one of the hardest callings one can follow.

As I reflect on years of blue light work I recall many examples of suffering, sadness and loss with the occasional joy of a safely delivered baby. In and around all these events is a common question we as Christians hear a lot: 'Where is God in this?'

I remember praying over this question a long time ago as I looked for a way to preach the gospel in this very challenging environment. My prayer was soon

answered when I read a quote from St Francis of Assisi, a quote that has dramatically changed my view on the preaching of the Gospel: 'Preach the gospel always, and if you must, use words.'

It goes without saying that the gospel of Christ is a wonderful comfort in times of upset but I have learnt that preaching the gospel first by silent presence and action often opens the door to the use of the gospel of words, both of these have life-changing power and seem to answer that age-old question 'where is God in this?'

All Christians are called to be emergency responders; called to be on standby 24 hours a day for all kinds of crisis, selflessly serving in the love of Christ by both word and action.

This is not just a job for the select few but a calling for us all. Are you ready for this calling?

George Roach.

Pray that we may be compassionate responders in every circumstance.

Bishop Stephen Kaziimba, Mityana (Uganda)

3 April - Wincle

C: John Harries. LM: Judith Harries.

Pray for wisdom as we look to reorder St Michael's that we might reach out more effectively in the community in June.

Wincle C of E School.

Bishop Julius Katio Kalu, Mombasa (Kenya)

4 April - Macclesfield St Peter (Part of Team)

C: Martin Stephens, David Wightman, Dave Mock. LM: Judith Gibson.

Give thanks for a welcoming and hospitable congregation which is seeking to draw in new people. Pray for guidance and wisdom in making changes to our services, in order to attract enquirers and develop disciples.

Bishop Richard Pain, Monmouth (Wales)

5 April - Macclesfield All Saints (Part of Team)

C; Martin Stephens, David Wightman, Dave Mock. LM: Robert Marshall, Liz Varney, Chris Gleaves.

Bishop Charles Franklin Brookhart, Montana (VI, The Episcopal Church, USA)

6 April - Macclesfield St Barnabas (Macclesfield Team Ministry)

C: Martin Stephens, David Wightman, Rob Wardle, Dave Mock.

LM: Frances Hiles, Glenys Hibbert.

Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson, Montreal (Canada, Canada)

7 April - Macclesfield Bollinbrook C of E School

Bishop Thomas Corston, Moosonee (Ontario, Canada)

8 April - Wallasey Deanery

Bishop Mark Strange, Moray, Ross & Caithness (Scotland)

9 April - Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday remembers 'The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem', crowds waving palm tree branches proclaiming Hosanna, Glory, Blessings on the King.

Yet who was this Jesus of Palm Sunday?

Authoritative certainly, instructing His disciples to fetch a donkey and colt from a nearby village with details that were 'exactly



Picture Credit: Ali Hutchison Artist and Sculptor 'Shelter' (2016) Cornish Polyphant Stone. Inspired by Psalm 91 'He will cover you with His feathers and under His wings you will find refuge.'

as He'd said'. But Triumphal? Hardly; intentionally travelling humbly on a donkey, symbol of peace.

The crowds, ignorant of the coming dark-days before the true triumph of Easter, shouted and cheered with expectant excitement. But this didn't go to Jesus' head. Instead He paused to weep over a lost city which had failed to build peace.

Elsewhere Matthew and Luke report a similar incident of Jesus' compassion, weeping and lament; 'Jerusalem, Jerusalem, ... how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.'

The joy to me of this paradoxical Palm-Sunday story of authority and compassion, humility and kingship, is that very offer, if we are willing, of shelter beneath a heavenly and holy wing. Sometimes rejoicing and waving palm branches is the right thing to do, but sometimes this invitational call of Jesus, to Rest in the Shadow of the Almighty, brings great comfort.

Ali Hutchinson, Arts and Faith Network

Pray for all with whom you will share this Holy Week.

Bishop Suheil Dawani, Jerusalem (Jerusalem & Middle East)

10 April - Leasowe

C: Aline Watts. LM: Diana Jones.

Leasowe The Holy Spirit RC / C of E School

Bishop Godfrey Sehaba, Morogoro (Tanzania) Bishop Stanley Elilekia

11 April - Liscard the Resurrection

C: Andrew Mannings. LM: Graham Mitchell.

*Bishop Isaac Ng'ang'a, Mount Kenya Central, Bishop Allen Waithaka,
Suffragan Bishop of Mount Kenya Central (Kenya)*

12 April - Liscard St Thomas

C: Robert Nelson.

*Bishop Timothy Ranji; Bishop Charles Muturi, Suffragan Bishop, Mount
Kenya South (Kenya)*

13 April - New Brighton St James with Emmanuel

Maundy Thursday

C: Heather Atkinson. LM: Ron Jones.

Prayer from Leading Your Church into Growth team

God of Mission
Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Amen.

Bishop Joseph Kagunda, Mount Kenya West (Kenya)

14 April - Poulton

Good Friday

C: Peter Cooper. LM: Lesley Roberts, Rob Woodburn.

Bishop Daniel Kgomosofo, Mpumalanga (Southern Africa)


15 April - Seacombe

C: Peter Cooper. LM: John Riddiough.

Bishop Sitembele Mzamane, Mthatha (formerly St John's) (Southern Africa)

16 April - Easter Day

Easter



In the Gospel of John, Christ tells Mary Magdalene of the benefit and use of his death and resurrection still more plainly, when he says: 'But go unto my brethren, and say to them, I ascend unto my Father and your Father, and my God and your God.' John 20:17. This is one of the great and comforting passages upon which we can venture, and of which we dare boast. As if Christ had said: Go hence, Mary, and say to my disciples who have deserted me on the field of battle, and who have well merited punishment and eternal condemnation, that my resurrection has taken place for their benefit; that is, by my resurrection I have brought

it to pass that my Father is their Father, and my God is their God. These are few words and very short; but they contain a great thought, namely, that we have as great a confidence and refuge in God as Christ his Son himself has. Who can grasp such exceeding joy, unless one speaks of himself when he says a poor, corrupt sinner can and may call God his Father and his God, just like Christ himself does?

From an Easter Day sermon preached by Martin Luther in the 1520s, edited and translated by John Nicholas Lenker and published in Minneapolis in 1905.

My God, my Mercy, and my Creator, I had forgotten you, but you held me ever in your sight.

St Augustine (354-430), Confessions.

17 April - Wallasey St Hilary

C: Alan Ward, Calum Piper. LM: John Tomkins, Catherine Godfrey, Valerie Sparks.

Lord, grow our trust in you and our obedience to you. May our worship, our groups and our relationships combine to equip us for life and may we shine for your glory each day, in Jesus' name.

Bishop Cranmer Mugisha, Muhabura (Uganda)

18 April - Wallasey St Nicholas

C: Jeff Staples. LM: Louise Jones.

Bishop William Ssebagala, Mukono (Uganda)

19 April - Moreton

C: Graham Cousins, Jeremy Bentliff, Debbi Stott. LM: Beryl Blackman. Please pray for us as we look to appoint a children's and families worker. Pray that funding will be available, and that we will be able to identify the right person to help us engage with the many opportunities we have in this area.

Moreton Christ Church C of E School.

Bishop Leo Roderick Paul, Multan (Pakistan)

20 April - Mottram Deanery

Bishop Prakash Patole, Mumbai (Form. Bombay) (North India)

21 April - Dukinfield St John

C: Tim Hayes, Chris Viney. LM: Pat Bradshaw, Stuart Phillips. Dukinfield St John's C of E School.

Bishop Beneah Okumu Salala, Mumias (Kenya)

22 April - Dukinfield St Mark

C: Alison Cox, Jenny Dunlop. LM: Chantelle Tunnicliffe.

Bishop Bismark Monday Avokaya, Mundri (Central, Sudan)

23 April - Ministry Development Review



Second of Easter

In the alternative collect for the Second Sunday of Easter we pray that the risen Christ may open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others. This season of Easter 2017 in the Diocese of Chester ushers in a new season of encouragement between all the clergy of the diocese. Under the Bishops' care we are invited to walk alongside each other, reflecting on our experience of ministry during the last year and encouraging each other to deepen

and developed that ministry in the coming year, a ministry which we share in Christ. Please remember all clergy in our diocese during this Easter season; encourage them with your words, actively support their well-being, and uphold them in your prayers.

Gary O'Neill, Bishop's Advisor for Ministerial Development Review.

Bishop Julius Karanu Wa Gicheru, Muranga South (Kenya)

24 April - Gee Cross

St George (transferred)

C: Vacant. LM: Wendy Slinger, Wendy Stockton.

Please pray for our church and PCC that as we walk with Christ we would receive wisdom and discernment in knowing the way he would have us go during this time of vacancy.

Gee Cross Holy Trinity C of E School.

Bishop Paisible Ndacayisaba, Muyinga (Burundi)

25 April - Godley cum Newton Green

St Mark

C: Vacant.

Bishop John Zau Li; Assistant Bishop - Vacant, Myitkyina; (Myanmar)

26 April - Hattersley

C: Lesley Atkins. LM: Pam Whittaker, David Bentley.

Pray for our candidates preparing for confirmation, and that God will lead us in the best way to expand our ministry with children.

Bishop Paul Dupare, Nagpur (North India)

27 April - Hollingworth

C: Bruce Perrin. LM: Stephen Cook.

Bishop Joel Waweru Mwangi, Nairobi (Kenya)

Bishop Joseph Muchai, Nakuru (Kenya)

Bishop Musa Kamuren, Nakuru, Baringo Area (Kenya)

28 April - Hyde St George

C: Joanna Parker. LM: Marjorie Trueman, David Hollington, Susan Nykorak, Barbara Hollington.

Please pray for us as we focus this year on faithfulness, God's faithfulness to us and how we can be faithful to him. Pray for our new PCC and all who work so hard to grow God's kingdom in this challenging place.

Hyde St George's C of E School.

Bishop Robert Magina Barasa, Nambale (Kenya)

29 April - Hyde St Thomas

C: Peter Hibbert.

Bishop Wilberforce Kityo Luwalira, Namirembe (Uganda)

30 April - Diocesan Lay Conference

Third of Easter

Next month several hundred people from this diocese will gather at The Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire for the Diocesan Lay Conference. Running from Friday 19th to Sunday 21st May, delegates will have an opportunity to explore ways to enable lay people to be more effective in their

own Christian Mission turning the seemingly 'Impossible' into 'Possible' through everyday activities, whilst enjoying the peaceful surroundings afforded by the conference centre.



The programme will include:

- information about the Renewal and Reform programme
- the diocesan strategy for mission
- effective new forms of mission and outreach
- Any Questions? With senior diocesan staff
- entertainment and time for relaxation
- worship.

The aim is to have as many parishes as possible represented at the weekend; all seeking to make a difference by focussing on the question 'Are you ready for Mission Possible?'

Pray for your representative/s and all attending Mission ImPossible. May it enhance discipleship and mission.

Bishop Eggoni Pushpalalitha, Nandyal (South India)

1 May - Millbrook

Ss Philip and James

C: Tim Hayes, Chris Viney.

Bishop Pradip Kamble, Nasik (North India)

2 May - Mottram-in-Longdendale

C: James Halstead. LM: John Walker, Alan Standeven, Callum Boothroyd.
Give thanks for the growth in the various ministry groups and pray that they will grow in strength as they reach out into the wider community.
Mottram C of E School. Broadbottom C of E School.

Bishop Dino Gabriel, Natal (Southern Africa)

*Bishop Tsietsse Edward Seleokane, Natal, North West Episcopal Area
(Southern Africa)*

*Bishop Hummingfield Ndwandwe, Natal, South Episcopal Area (Southern
Africa)*

3 May - Newton in Mottram with Flowery Field

C: Annie Woodcock. LM: Sara Burgess, Lynn Keeley, Linda Marshall.
Please pray for St Mary's in this time of change for the church, as community and as individuals, to know the love of God. May God bless this community with life-changing testimony.

Bishop Laish Boyd, Nassau & The Bahamas (West Indies)

4 May - Stalybridge Holy Trinity

C: Tom Parker. LM: Clive Hustwick, Barry Edge.

Bishop Petrus Hilukiluah, Suffragan Bishop of Namibia (Southern Africa)

5 May - Stalybridge St Paul

C: Emma Handley. LM: John Clements.

Pray that we may increase our connection with the children and young people of our community through schools visits and Messy Church. Also, for wisdom to help us disciple our young people more effectively. Pray blessings on our church school St Paul's.

Stalybridge St Paul's C of E School.

*Bishop Mark Lawrence MacDonald, National Indigenous Bishop (Ontario,
Canada)*

6 May - Tintwistle

C: Bruce Perrin.

Tintwistle C of E School.

*Bishop David Bailey, Navajoland Area Mission (VIII, The Episcopal Church,
USA)*

7 May - Julian of Norwich (Feast Day 8th May)



Fourth of Easter

During the night of 13th May 1373 an ill young woman received fifteen revelations – ‘showings’ – from God. Later that day she received one more showing as a confirmation of the previous ones. Then she began a long life of contemplation and prayer as an anchoress in a cell that was part of the Church of St Julian, in the city of Norwich, and it was probably from the

church that she came to be called ‘Julian.’ It is thought that she died in 1420. Her ‘Revelations of Divine Love’ took many years to complete and exists in a short and long version. Her message can be summarised in this excerpt from the long version:

‘And from the time that it was revealed, I desired many times to know in what was our Lord’s meaning. And fifteen years after and more, I was answered in spiritual understanding, and it was said: What, do you wish to know your Lord’s meaning in this thing? Know it well, love was his meaning. Who reveals it to you? Love. What did he reveal to you? Love. Why does he reveal it to you? For love.’

In a homely but profound and learned style that uses commonplace images, Julian provides a theology of mystical experience that continues to have wide appeal. She is properly considered as the first English woman of letters, as the former Dean of St Paul’s Cathedral Alan Webster once wrote, and certainly one of the Church’s greatest teachers.

Pray for the numerous Julian groups praying around the world. Offer thanks for the comfort so many have received from her words.

Bishop David Obios, Ndokwa (Bendel, Nigeria)

8 May - Wirral North Deanery

Please pray for our churches of varied kinds and in varied situations, that all would know confidence and joy in belonging to Christ and serving him. Pray that all may have God’s wisdom as they make Jesus known and as they serve the people of their communities. Please pray that we would be known, and God praised, for our generosity, towards one another, and towards those in need around us.

Bishop Alphonse Watho-kudiNebbi (Uganda)

9 May - Barnston

C: Peter Froggatt, Christopher Murphy. LM: David Williams, Jane McCallum, Marjorie Burden, Carol Jordan, Chrissie Irlam, Lynn Alexander, Ann Vassie, David Reed, Eileen Hindley, Ali Johnson.

We thank God for our staff team and our readers, and pastoral workers, and the many people involved in ministry of differing kinds. We pray for the new Mission Leadership Team. We pray that we may be marked more and more by generosity, our dealings with one another and in our service to the community around us.

Bishop Scott Barker, Nebraska (VI, The Episcopal Church, USA)

Bishop Dan Edwards, Nevada (VIII, The Episcopal Church, USA)

10 May - Bebington

C: David Vestergaard, Al Rodgers. LM: Judith Battersby, Amy Haigh, Helen Thomas, Ian Halliday, David Jack.

Please pray for staff appointments as we look to appoint a new Associate Minister and an Office Assistant, and for relationships to be developed with local people through various evangelistic community events this year.

Bebington St Andrew's C of E School.

Bishop Victor Richard Ellena, Nelson (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia)

11 May - Frankby with Greasby

C: Ken Owen, Paul Bentley.

Bishop Israel Amoo, New Busa (Kwara, Nigeria)

12 May - Great Meols

C: Gillian Rossiter, Karl Williams. LM: Julia Johnson, Christine Branch, Lesley Young, David Moss.

Please give thanks for all who volunteer at St John's for their dedication and commitment.

Bishop Allan Migi, New Guinea Islands (Papua New Guinea)

13 May - Heswall

C: Martin Cannam, Jacky Wise, Richard, Sherratt, Alan Leach. LM: Lyn Weston, Sam Denniss, Michael Barritt, Peter Twin, Brenda Wilson, Arthur Rixon.

Heswall St Peter's C of E School.

Bishop Robert Hirschfeld, New Hampshire (I, The Episcopal Church, USA)

14 May - Christian Aid Week

Fifth of Easter

Nejebbar and her family have fled horrors in Afghanistan, where her husband was threatened with torture and death for being a government worker.

But now they've arrived in Greece, all they have is a tent. They have no other protection against wind and rain. There's no school for their five children. And they have no certainty or clear idea of what will happen to them now.

They thought they would stay here for 10 days, but it's already been six months and there's no end in sight.

Nejebbar's husband Noor describes their initial reaction to arriving in the camp in Greece: 'It was like suicide for us. But we took the decision that it is better to die here than to die there from war.'

Thanks to you, Christian Aid has been there for refugees like Nejebbar since 1945, providing essential food, shelter and legal assistance for people far from home. Christian Aid Week was set up 60 years ago to support our work with refugees in Europe following the Second World War. And we still believe in life before death.

Let's act again now, to help relieve suffering and build a world where everyone has a safe place to call home.

Pray for collectors and local fund-raisers, and also for partner organizations using the funds raised.

From <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week> where additional materials can be accessed.

Bishop William Stokes, New Jersey (II, The Episcopal Church, USA)



15 May - Upton (Overchurch)

St Mathias

C: Graeme Skinner, Nicola Eastwood. LM: Peter Davies, Lorraine Williams, Jenny Archer, Laura Arnold, Alison Collins, Gaynor Kydd, Rhonda Anson.

We have created 'hubs' of people around our vision, as a result we give thanks that new initiatives are flourishing. We are engaged in a process of making our buildings 'fit for purpose'; pray for positive links for the community we serve.

Bishop Greg Thompson, Newcastle (AUS), Bishop Peter Stuart, Assistant Bishop of Newcastle (New South Wales, Australia)

16 May - Hoylake

C: Paul Rossiter, John Harrison, Karl Williams. LM: Ruth Calcott, Jill Rawcliffe.

Pray for the continued growth of our church family, for the staff and pupils of our church school and for our community of Hoylake.

Hoylake Holy Trinity C of E School.

Bishop Andrew Dietsche, New York; Bishop Allen Shin, Suffragan Bishop of New York; Bishop William Franklin, Western New York (II, The Episcopal Church, USA);

17 May - New Ferry

C: Andrew Greenhough. LM: Mike Gillam, Jim Cartwright, Joyce Sefton.

Next month (June) Peter Chamberlin and his wife, Jo, and family will join us, and he will be curate at both St Mark's and at St Peter's Rock Ferry. Pray for us as we work together in bringing the good news about the Lord Jesus to "The Ferries". *Bishop Oscar Mnung'a, Newala (Tanzania)*

18 May - Newton West Kirby

C: Cheryl Coverley. LM: Martin Smith, Anthony Hart.

Please pray for our "Playing my part" initiative that everyone will know that their contribution is valued as we seek to grow our congregations.

Bishop Mark Beckwith, Newark (II, The Episcopal Church, USA)

19 May - Thurstaston

C: Jane Turner. LM: Alan Jones.

This year we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of St Chad's. Pray that we continue to be equipped to serve Christ in Thurstaston and Irby in the future. Pray for those taking part in our Multi-Sensory Bible course and for those who will be confirmed in October.

Thurstaston Dawpool C of E School.

Bishop Christine Hardman, Newcastle; Bishop Mark Tanner, Suffragan Bishop of Berwick (York, England)

20 May - Higher Bebington

C: Mike Loach, Eunice Blackmore. LM: Ted Jones, Jill Wright, June Fogg.

Bishop Melissa Skelton, New Westminster (British Columbia & the Yukon, Canada) Bishop Michael Allan Bird, Niagara (Ontario, Canada)

21 May - Thy Kingdom Come



Sixth of Easter

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension (25th May) and Pentecost (4th June) for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. What started out as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in 2016 to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

The hope is that:

- people will commit to pray with God's world-wide family - as a church, individually or as a family;
- churches will hold prayer events, such as 24-7 prayer, prayer stations and prayer walks, across the UK and in other parts of the world;
- people will be empowered through prayer by the Holy Spirit, finding new confidence to be witnesses for Jesus Christ.

From www.thykingdomcome.global – where more information can be found.

In this diocese, parishes are encouraged to run prayer events in churches and houses, schools and meeting places with the hope of seeing God's kingdom come. Prayer events are planned at Foxhill and Chester Cathedral, culminating in a pilgrimage from Foxhill to a Beacon Prayer Event at the Cathedral at 7.00pm on 4th June. For up to date details please see the diocesan website.

Pray 'Thy kingdom come.'

Bishop Christian Ebisike, Ngbo (Enugu, Nigeria)

22 May - West Kirby St Andrew

Rogation Day

C: Peter Walsh. LM: Ken Jones.

Pray for rich blessing on the Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham

*Bishop Vicente Msossa, Niassa; Bishop Manuel Ernesto, Suffragan
Bishop of Niassa, Niassa (Southern Africa)*

23 May - West Kirby St Bridget

Rogation Day

C: John Bleazard, David Chester, Emma Speake. LM: John Smith, Mary Lynch, Brian Dodd.

West Kirby St Bridget's C of E School.

Please pray for our developing pattern of house groups and short courses that these might help people explore discipleship and God's call on their lives. Pray that our two churches might follow the way of Jesus with open hearts (in worship and prayer), open minds (to learn and listen) and open hands (to welcome and to serve others).

Archbishop Ignatius Kattey, Niger Delta North (Niger Delta, Nigeria)

24 May - Poulton Lancelyn

C: Roger Wiles. LM: Alan Jones, Michael Clarkson.

Bishop Emmanuel Oko-Jaja, Niger Delta West (Niger Delta, Nigeria)

25 May - Nantwich Deanery

Ascension Day

Across the different sorts of communities in the deanery that we serve and the different ways we serve we pray that we may reflect how wide and high and deep the love of God is. As the populations of parishes expand with new housing, may glimpses of God be evident for all those seeking to make these new houses their home.

26 May - Acton

C: Anne Lawson.

Please pray for a new project to open the church as a meeting place on Sunday afternoons. We hope this will be a place where everyone will be welcomed and accepted.

Acton C of E School.

Bishop Ralph Ebirien, The Niger Delta (Niger Delta, Nigeria)

27 May - Audlem

C: Helen Chantry. LM: Anne Draper, Jill Williams.

Audlem St James' C of E School.

Bishop Johnson Ekwe, Niger West (Niger, Nigeria)

28 May - Birth in a time of antibiotic resistance

Seventh of Easter

'King Henry VIII, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Mary Shelley, author of Frankenstein, all lost their mothers to infections following childbirth, and literature abounds with tragic stories of maternal death, from 'A Christmas Carol' to 'Wuthering Heights', 'Far From the Madding Crowd', 'A Farewell to Arms', 'Revolutionary Road', 'Lolita', and 'Harry Potter'.



But maternal and infant mortality is not confined to the past, much less to fiction. More than 30,000 women and 400,000 newborns die each year from infections around the time of birth. Most of these deaths occur in low-income countries, and the situation will only worsen as the antibiotics available for treating infections become less effective, owing to the emergence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria', so write Doctors Anthony Costello (a WHO Director) and Stefan Peterson (Chief of Health UNICEF) in a recent World Health Organization commentary (<http://www.who.int/mediacentre>).

Estimates suggest that as many as 40% of infections in newborns resist standard treatments. Infants, particularly those born prematurely, do not have fully developed immune systems, so they are more susceptible to illnesses, either from bugs their mother is already carrying, or from infections they pick up in a hospital (Children's Environmental Health International Initiatives Newsletter, Sept 2016). Reducing exposure to infectious microbes alongside antibiotic prescription only when needed but as needed, are key to tackling the problem – issues of excess and access have to be addressed.

Pray for those exposed to most risk in childbirth, and for good hygiene and optimizing use of drug interventions.

Bishop Evans Jonathan Ibeagha, Nike (Enugu, Nigeria)

29 May - Baddiley

C: Alison Fulford. LM: Elizabeth Gentil, Ron High, Cynthia Gorton.
Please pray that in our benefice we continue to grow in the likeness of Christ and encourage others to experience God's welcome and love.

Bishop Godwin Izundu Nmezinwa Okpala, Nnewi (Niger, Nigeria)

30 May - Burleydam

C: Alison Fulford. LM: Elizabeth Gentil, Ron High, Cynthia Gorton.
Please pray that in our benefice we continue to grow in the likeness of Christ and encourage others to experience God's welcome and love.

Bishop Muhindo Isesomo, Bishop Enoch Kayeeye, Assistant Bishop of Nord Kivu, Nord Kivu (Congo)

31 May - Church Minshull

The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

C: Anne Lawson.

Give thanks for the successful establishing of Cafe Church. Pray for those who come to Cafe Church and Messy Church that they might find a deepening relationship with Jesus.

Bishop Stephen Namanya, North Ankole (Uganda)

1 June - Coppenhall

C: Charles Razzall.

Vacant; Bishop William Gregg, Assistant Bishop of North Carolina (IV, The Episcopal Church, USA)

2 June - Crewe All Saints and St Paul

C: Jane Colley. LM: Anne Marshall.

Bishop Joel Atiwag Pachao, North Central Philippines (Philippines)

3 June - Crewe St Andrew with St John the Baptist

C; Lynne Cullens, Hazel Rugman. LM: Pam Brookfield.

Bishop Michael Smith, North Dakota (VI, The Episcopal Church, USA)

4 June - Pentecost

Pentecost

At Pentecost, we remember the Holy Spirit coming upon the disciples with tongues of flame and the sound of the rushing wind. It's a captivating story with vivid imagery as the disciples are filled with the Holy Spirit. Fire and wind can be hugely disruptive when we encounter them in a powerful way, but we often try to tame them, try to bend them to our will. Is there a risk that we reduce the rushing wind of Pentecost to a handheld fan? The fire of the Holy Spirit to a feeble birthday candle flame?

Let us pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to sweep through the Church with power this Pentecost. Let us pray that, as we celebrate the birth of the

Church the fire and wind would disrupt our comfort and empower us to walk more closely with God.

Pentecost marks the end of the Thy Kingdom Come prayer initiative for 2017, but let's use it as a springboard to grow together in prayer, to pray for those who don't know Jesus, to proclaim the good news of his gospel and to let the disruptive presence of God change us all.

Andy Stinson, Diocesan Worship Adviser

Send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us.

Bishop Michael Herenz, North East India (North India)



5 June - Crewe St Barnabas

C: Ralph Powell.

Bishop Leroy Brooks, North Eastern Caribbean & Aruba (West Indies)

6 June - Crewe St Peter

C: Jane Colley.

Bishop James Nasak, North Karamoja (Uganda)

7 June - Crewe Green

C: Jules Walker. LM: Linda Clarke, Anne Thompson, Ron Taylor.

Bishop Baker Ninan Fenn, Cochin (South India)

8 June - Doddington

C: Helen Chantry.

Bridgemere C of E School.

Bishop Patrick Tugume, Tusingwire, North Kigezi (Uganda)

Bishop Samuel Gidudu, North Mbale (Uganda)

9 June - Haslington

C: Jules Walker. LM: Anne Thompson.

Bishop William Ray, North Queensland, Bishop Saibo Mabo, Assistant

Bishop of North Queensland (Torres Islander) (Queensland, Australia)

Bishop Gary Nelson North West Australia (Western Australia, Australia)

10 June - Leighton-cum-Minshull Vernon

C: Philip Goggin. LM: Patricia Baker.

Bishop Nicholas James Qusted Drayson, Bishop Mateo Alto, Bishop

Urbano Duarte, Bishop Cristiano Rojas, Suffragan Bishop of Northern

Argentina, Northern Argentina (South America)

11 June - Ordination of Priests (Saturday, 17th June)

Trinity Sunday

Those to be ordained priest by Bishop Peter next Saturday and the parishes in which they serve:

Alec Corio (Stockport, St George), Allen Waller (Oxton), Emma Speake (West Kirby, St Bridget), Eunice Blackmore (Christ Church, Higher Bebington), Gail Miller (Holmes Chapel), Heather Carty (Guilden Sutton and Plemstall), Jeremy Bentliff (Moreton), John Stopford (Whitegate and Little Budworth with responsibilities at St Luke's Hospice), Judith Evans (Grappenhall), Karl Williams (Great Meols (in partnership with Hoylake)), Michelle Goodrich (Prestbury), Patricia Robinson (Rostherne with Bollington, High Legh, and Over Tabley), Philip Harris (Marple (GLO)), David O'Brien (Upton by Chester), Richard West (Whaley Bridge), Tracy Ward (Sale, St Anne).



Have always ... printed in your remembrance how great a treasure is committed to your charge.

From the Bishop's exhortation in The Ordering of Priests, Book of Common Prayer.

Pray for the ministry given into their charge and for the communities in which they minister.

Bishop Barry Beisner, Northern California (VIII, The Episcopal Church, USA)

12 June - Nantwich

St Barnabas

C: Barry Wilson, Stephen Snelling, Kaushal David. LM: Paul Ramsay, Lynne Marsh, Dorothy Woods, Dot Roxby, Herbert Rowsell, John Munks, Rita Johnson, Sue Caunt.

Bishop Edward Little, Northern Indiana (V, The Episcopal Church, USA)

13 June - Weston

C: Michael Leyden. LM: Anna Leyden, Jeanette Lewis, Margaret Hodgkinson.

Bishop Fred Nyanabo, Northern Izon (Niger Delta, Nigeria)

14 June - Wistaston

C: Mike Turnbull. LM: David Illing, Ann Stubbs.

Vacant, Northern Izon (Niger Delta, Nigeria)

15 June - Worleston

Day of Thanksgiving for Holy Communion

C: Anne Lawson. LM: Ann Nicholas, Isobel Burnley.

Please pray for our plan to start a Communion Service mid-week which will include children from St Oswald's School and members of the community. St Oswald's Worleston C of E School.

Bishop Fanuel Emmanuel Magangani, Northern Malawi (Central Africa)

16 June - Wrenbury

C: Alison Fulford. LM: Elizabeth Gentil, Ron High, Cynthia Gorton, Roger Howarth.

Please pray that in our benefice we continue to grow in the likeness of Christ and encourage others to experience God's welcome and love.

Bishop Rayford Ray, Northern Michigan (V, The Episcopal Church, USA)

17 June - Wybunbury

C: Helen Chantry.

Wybunbury Delves C of E School. Stapeley Broad Lane C of E School.

Bishop Brent Alawas, Bishop Miguel Yamoyam, Suffragan Bishop of the Northern Philippines (Philippines)



First after Trinity

Martin Luther once threatened to write a book against those who were too artful in preaching. He was a preacher who often felt frustrated in his task. A lifetime as a local church preacher made him all too aware of how hard it is to change people. Rhetorical skills might make the task a little easier but they must never be allowed to interfere with the core purpose of meeting Christ. According to Luther, 'preaching continues the battle begun by the

saving event and is itself the saving event.' His was the conviction that 'the preaching of the gospel is nothing else than Christ coming to us, or we being brought to him' (LW, 35,121).

It is wrong to suggest that this famously 'high' understanding of the sermon replaced a medieval indifference to preaching. In every age the preaching office has had a special place within the practice of the Church. What Luther's high view insisted on was the idea that preaching is a medium, indeed THE medium, through which the benefits of Christ's passion is bestowed. Orality, the spoken and heard Word, was for him the only way the Gospel could be received.

In a cynical age like ours such authority given to the spoken word comes as something of a surprise. We are all, too often, suspicious of what is said. This Reformation anniversary year asks us to think again about the power of the spoken word. Luther described himself as 'taken captive by the Word of God.' As we offer thanks for all that that 'captivity' achieved in and through Luther's life we should also think on how we in our times might echo his methods as well as his teaching.

Bishop Greg Anderson, Northern Territory; The (Queensland, Australia)

19 June - Wettenhall

C: Anne Lawson. LM: Isobel Burnley, Ann Nicholas.

Bishop Johnson Gakumba, Northern Uganda (Uganda)

20 June - Warmingham

C: Philip Goggin. LM: Helan Isherwood, Peter Noden, Patricia Baker.

Warmingham C of E School.

Bishop Scott Mayer, Northwest Texas (VII, The Episcopal Church, USA)

21 June - Wirral South Deanery

Father, help us to grow together in our Deanery in trust and love. Nourish and encourage and resource us in our shared ministry to our vibrant communities.

Bishop Sean Rowe, Northwestern Pennsylvania (III, The Episcopal Church, USA)

22 June - Backford

C: Vacant.

Mollington St Oswald's C of E School.

Bishop Graham James, Norwich; Bishop Jonathan Meyrick, Norwich – Lynn; Bishop Alan Peter Winton, Norwich – Thetford (Canterbury, England)

23 June - Bromborough

C: Jenny Gillies. LM: Lynne Whittaker.

Bishop Ronald Wayne Cutler, Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island (Canada, Canada)

24 June - Burton

The Birth of John the Baptist

C: Cathy Helm. LM: Basil Keys, Anne Rudd, Ruth Abbott, John Morris-Best.

Pray for the Messy church as we seek to grow the team and encourage new members to become more involved.

Burton Bishop Wilson C of E School.

Bishop Aloysius Agbo, Nsukka (Enugu, Nigeria)

25 June - Rail Journeying



Second after Trinity

Rail passenger journeys are now at their highest level since the 1920s. On average 4.7 million railway journeys are made each day in Great Britain. In the EU only Germany has more total rail journeys. In excess of 60% of all British journeys start or end in London, demonstrating a marked bias towards the relatively wealthy south east England. Individuals in managerial and professional occupations are much more likely to

travel by train than those in manual occupations. And young women make the most rail trips of any age group.

More than 190,000 people are employed in the UK rail industry; from train drivers and station staff to those responsible for managing and maintaining the network's 20,000 miles of track. The nationwide rail network has more than 2,500 stations and some 40,000 bridges and tunnels.

Rail travel remains by far the safest mode of transport and the UK currently has the lowest annual number of injuries of any European country. Similarly, despite public controversy, fares have arguably remained relatively stable in recent years, and are on average per mile less than half of the cost of motoring (according to RAC figures). Less controversially, it is clear that rail is environmentally more friendly than other means of transport and it continues to reduce its' carbon emissions as a consequence of enhanced services, new rolling stock and new infrastructure.

(Based on Rail Trends January 2017, Department of Transport)

Pray for all who work in the railway industry and all who depend on their labours.

*Bishop Stephen Kabora, Nyahururu; Bishop Jacob Lesuuda, Nyahururu -
Maralal Area (Kenya)*

26 June - Capenhurst

C: Vacant. LM: Jo Pemberton.
Capenhurst C of E School.

Bishop Samuel Enosa Peni, Nzara (Minye, Sudan)

27 June - Eastham

C: Beth Glover, Maureen Coats, Mark Turner. LM: Anne York, Ray Bonnard, Ken London, Bob Oxburgh, David Colenso, Simone Llewellyn, Dot Christiansen, Andrew Bradley-Gibbons.

Please pray for this large, diverse parish that we will continue to work with God's Spirit as he leads us into new areas of mission and ministry, and for our staff and ministry teams.

Millfields C of E School.

Bishop Akintunde Popoola, Offa (Kwara, Nigeria)

28 June - Ellesmere Port

C: Gordon McGuinness, Gill Foster, Rob Barker, Gordon Welch. LM: Ricky Montgomery, Julia McGuinness. James Wilkinson, Frank Mawdsley, Tina Trevett, Duncan Wardle.

1. Prayers for our developing Youth Work, especially the starting of an older teens group.

2. The refurbishment of St Thomas Church.

Ellesmere Port Christ Church C of E School.

Bishop Samuel Ezeofor, Ogbaru (Niger, Nigeria)

29 June - Great Saughall

Ss Peter and Paul

C: Vacant, Heather Pang.

Saughall All Saints

During the vacancy, please pray for adequate cover of the Sundays and mid-week service. Also for effective new arrangements for ordained ministry with neighbouring parishes.

Saughall C of E School.

Bishop James Oruwori, Ogbia (Niger Delta, Nigeria)

30 June - Great Sutton

C: Antony Dutton. LM: Eric Quirk.

Bishop Matthew Osunade, Ogbomoso (Ibadan, Nigeria)

1 July - Hooton

C: Keith Howard. LM: Peter Vaughan.

Little Sutton C of E School.

Bishop Solomon Gberegbara, Ogoni (Niger Delta, Nigeria)

2 July - Ordination of Deacons



Third after Trinity

The following people (detailed with the places where they will serve) will be ordained deacon by Bishop Peter in Chester Cathedral today:

Joshua (Josh) Christian Askwith, Neston; Victoria (Vicky) Louise Barrett, Bunbury and Tilstone Fearnall; Karen Brady, The Macclesfield Team Parish; Peter John Chamberlin, Saint Mark the Evangelist, New Ferry and Saint Peter, Rock Ferry; Jayne Coxall, Saint Mark, Bredbury; Audrey Suzanne Eddleston, Christ Church, Timperley; Alexandria (Sandi) Compton Fisher, Wilmslow; Allan William Goode, Birkenhead, Christ

Church; Mark Richard Green, Saint Helen, Witton; Rachel Julia Griffiths, Wybunbury and Audlem with Doddington; Alec Geoffrey Ham, Saint John, Hartford; Valerie (Val) Gail Hindmarsh, Norbury; Ruth Elizabeth Mock, Stretton and Appleton Thorn; Jessica Ann Piper, Bowdon; Kimberley (Kim) Quak-Winslow, Sutton, Wincle, Wildboarclough and Bosley; Fiona Heather Anne Robinson, Chelford and Lower Withington with Marthall; Evelyn (Lyn) Sarah Weston, Heswall; Christina Karen Buchan Westwell, Great Budworth; Gillian (Gill) Margaret Younger, All Saints, Daresbury.

You see then that the blessedness of a bishop, priest, or deacon, does not lie in the fact that they are bishops, priests, or deacons, but in their having the virtues which their names and offices imply.

Saint Jerome (347-420) in *Against Jovinianus*

Pray for those made deacon today, for their families, their friends and those among whom they will serve.

Bishop Festus Davies, Ogori-Magongo (Lokoja, Nigeria)

Bishop Chidi Collins Oparaojiak, Ohaji / Egbema (Owerri, Nigeria)

3 July - Neston

St Thomas

C: Alan Dawson, Judith Calvert, Josh Askwith. LM: Elizabeth Joyce, Tony Cooke, Frances Skinner, Richard Skinner, Pat Hezel, Chris Storer.

Bishop Mark Hollingsworth, Ohio (V, The Episcopal Church, USA)

4 July - Shotwick

C: Cathy Helm. LM: Basil Keys, John Morris-Best.

Prayer as we seek to grow and improve our links with the local agricultural community.

Archbishop Amos Amankechinelo Madu; Oji River (Enugu, Nigeria)

Bishop Emmanuel Bayo Ajulo, Okene (Lokoja, Nigeria)

5 July - Thornton Hough

C: Daniel Howard. LM: John Mayhew.

Please pray with us as we develop a new statement of vision and goals. Join with us in thanking God for his work in our lives, for a few new members of different ages, for sustaining us in the face of ill health and bereavement, and for the blessings of our fellowship. Please pray for the resources that we need (both people and finances) to continue and develop our key ministries and activities.

Bishop Solomon Amusan, Oke-Ogun (Ibadan, Nigeria)

6 July - Willaston

C: Stephen Bazely, Lyndon Bannon.

Please pray that our work with young people may continue to grow. Pray for our singing club at Willaston Primary and for growing links with the uniformed groups and for the children who come to our services. Pray that we may be confident in sharing the love and joy of knowing Christ.

Willaston C of E School.

Bishop Abraham Akinlalu, Oke-Osun (Ibadan, Nigeria)

7 July - The University of Chester Church of England Academy, Ellesmere Port

Bishop Edward Osuegbu, Okigwe (Owerri, Nigeria)

8 July - Stockport Deanery

We pray for the parishes which are in vacancy and for the discussions taking place. As the deanery seeks to discern the way forward we pray for opportunities to unite the deanery even more and for our focus to be on mission and evangelism.

Bishop Godson Udochukwu Okigwe North; Bishop David Onuoha, Ukanwa Okigwe South (Owerri, Nigeria)

9 July - Doing Good

Fourth after Trinity



In their Foreword to *Doing Good: A Future for Christianity in the 21st Century*, a Theos Report by Nick Spencer, Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury and Vincent Nichols, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, write:

‘Strange things are happening to Christianity in the United Kingdom.

While critics prophesy its imminent demise – as critics have done for several hundred years – Christians across the country are doing what they too, have done for many hundreds of years: worship, pray, witness, serve.

There is nothing, of course, strange about this. What is strange – or at least worthy of greater notice than it usually receives – is that the breadth, depth and intensity of this Christian service is deepening. From personal debt advice to marriage counselling, from foodbanks to street pastors, from rehabilitation to reconciliation, the Church – and Christian charities across the country are rolling up their sleeves, struggling on behalf of human dignity, pursuing the common good — and doing it all in the name of Jesus Christ.’

The report’s idea of “Christian social liturgy” expresses how Christians can combine their fidelity to the two greatest commandments – loving God and loving neighbour – in a way that is simultaneously distinctive and inclusive.’ For a free electronic version of the report or details of how to purchase a hard copy go to www.theosthinktank.co.uk and follow the links.

Pray for the wisdom and courage to enact the Kingdom Jesus came to announce.

Bishop David Eisho Uehar, Okinawa (Japan)

10 July - Brinnington with Portwood

C: Andy Williams. LM: Brenda Baxendale.

Pray that our building plans will enable the church to become financially self-sufficient and be an impetus for mission in the community.

Brinnington St Paul's C of E School.

Bishop Edward Konieczny, Oklahoma (VII, The Episcopal Church, USA)

Bishop Gregory Rickel, Olympia (VIII, The Episcopal Church, USA)

11 July - Offerton

C: Vacant, Janet Owens.

Please pray for our parish as we face the challenges of an vacancy, that the church may continue to flourish in mission and discipleship.

Bishop Tubokosemie, Okrika (Niger Delta, Nigeria)

Bishop John Usiwoma Aruakpor, Atere Oleh (Bendel, Nigeria)

12 July - Edgeley with Cheadle Heath

C: David Brewster, Julie Johnson. LM: David Brown, Lucy Brewster, Heather Adams.

Pray that our life will be rejuvenated as we act on our new vision statement Belong, Grow, Serve & Tell. Pray that inspired by the use of our newly acquired and refurbished Parish Rooms may we continue to build links between our church and community.

Edgeley St Matthew's C of E School.

Bishop Tandema Andrew, Olo (Minye, Sudan)

13 July - Stockport St Mary

C: Vacant. LM: Rita Waters.

Bishop Philip Adeyemo, Omu-Aran (Kwara, Nigeria)

14 July - Stockport St Peter

C: Vacant.

Bishop Chijioke Oti, On the Lake (Owerri, Nigeria)

Bishop Owen Chidozie Nwokolo, On the Niger (Niger, Nigeria)

15 July - Stockport St Saviour

C: Diane Cookson. LM: Madeleine Watts.

Give thanks for the congregation of St Saviour's who try so hard to live out our Mission Statement: 'Passion for Christ, Compassion for all'. May God continue to enrich, inspire and strengthen them.

Bishop George Lasebikan, Ondo; Bishop Christopher Tayo Omotunde, Suffragan Bishop of Ondo (Ondo, Nigeria)

16 July - Jane Austen 200



Fifth after Trinity

On the 18th July 1817, aged just 41, Jane Austen died. She remains one of the most beloved of English novelists; translated into innumerable languages and turned into many feature films, TV shows and related adaptations, her six novels can truly be said to have transcended all human cultural boundaries. As unlikely as it seems Austen's stories of Regency era family concerns and relationships speak across the years and across divisions to people of widely differing outlooks and experience. Indeed it is

no exaggeration to say that Miss Austen's imagination is one of the roots of contemporary and almost universal ideals of what romance actually is. In matters of relationships and love, with all the associated social complexities, she provides realistic commentary imbued with irony and compelling comedy that has wide appeal.

From a prayer written in a letter by Jane Austen in May 1817:

Give us grace Almighty Father, so to pray, as to deserve to be heard, to address thee with our hearts, as with our lips. Thou art everywhere present; from thee no secret can be hid. May the knowledge of this, teach us to fix our thoughts on thee with reverence and devotion that we pray not in vain. Pray for all touched by Austen's work wherever they may be.

*Bishop George Lindsey Russell Bruce; Ontario; Bishop Michael Oulton,
Coadjutor Bishop (Ontario, Canada)*

17 July - Stockport St Thomas

C: Vacant, Janet Owens.

Stockport St Thomas C of E School.

Please pray for our parish as we face the challenges of an vacancy, that the church may continue to flourish in mission and discipleship.

*Bishop John Holland Chapman, Ottawa; Bishop Peter Robert Coffin, Bishop
Ordinary to the Canadian Armed Forces (Ontario, Canada)*

18 July - Stockport St George

C: Elaine Chegwin Hall, Sandra Woodhead, Alec Corio. LM: Peter Hall, Micahel Coupe, Audrey Manzano.

Stockport St George's C of E School.

Bishop Michael Hanley, Oregon (VIII, The Episcopal Church, USA)

19 July - Norbury Hazel Grove

C: Richard Lawry, Rob Green. LM: Lynn Smith, Alan Brown, Val Gilchrist, Richard Crocker, Margaret Darbyshire.

Please pray that we will be a welcoming and truly inclusive church, and that God will equip us to serve others and bring light and hope to our community and neighbourhoods.

Archbishop Bennett Okoro, Orlu (Owerri, Nigeria)

20 July - Bishop's Mission Order God Loves Offerton

C: Phil Harris.

Bishop Geoffrey Chukwunenye, Oru (Owerri, Nigeria)

21 July - Birkenhead Deanery

Pray for unity and mutual encouragement to continue; for resources needed for mission and for continual growth toward a missional plan for the deanery.

Bishop Andrew Haruhisa Iso, Osaka (Japan)

22 July - Bidston

Mary Magdalene

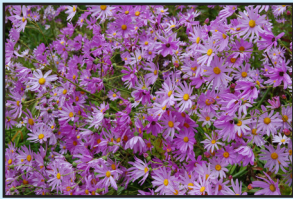
C: Ron Iveson. LM: Rob Morsley, Jayne Morsley.

Pray for established ministry to flourish and new ministry to take root and develop; for a depending on prayfulness and godliness.

Bidston Village C of E School.

Bishop James Afolabi Popoola, Osun (Ibadan, Nigeria)

23 July - RHS Flower Show Tatton Park



Sixth after Trinity

Today the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Flower Show Tatton Park ends. First held in 1999, the show has welcomed thousands of visitors each year. Many of the show's original features, such as the RHS National Flower Bed Competition, Show Gardens and Floral Marquee,

continue to be firm favourites. That said, the Tatton Park show also has a reputation for innovation and fresh ideas. Indeed its very popular National Young Designer Competition was one such innovation in 2009. Another of its features is the large part community organisations play with charities, schools, local authorities and prisons being involved every year. Talks, demonstrations, advice, trade stands and exhibitors add further to a carnival atmosphere.

The work of the RHS, of course, stretches far beyond fun days out like the Tatton Park show or the maintenance of nationally significant gardens. It describes its mission as enriching everyone's life through plants so that the UK might be a greener and more beautiful place. Campaigns like 'Greening Grey Britain,' which promotes alternatives to paved-over front gardens, may be a vital part of countering increasing flooding and temperature rises.

Based on webpages www.rhs.org.uk where further information can be found.

Pray for the work of the RHS and all who work in horticulture – both professionally and as amateurs.

Bishop Humphrey Olumakaiye, Osun North East (Ibadan, Nigeria)

24 July - Birkenhead Priory

C: Vacant. LM: Arthur Smith.

Pray for the urban parish of Christ the King and our church school as we look to the future with a new Rector. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us as we seek to grow and reach out into the local community. Give thanks for our Community and Family Worker and for all who support our community work.

Birkenhead the Priory Parish C of E School.

Bishop David Bello, Otukpo (Abuja, Nigeria)

Bishop Cyril Chukwunonyerem Okorocho, Owerri (Owerri, Nigeria)

Bishop James Adedayo Oladunjoye, Owo (Ondo, Nigeria)

25 July - Birkenhead St James with St Bede

St James

C: Steve Mansfield.

Pray for the recruitment of an Eden Team to work with our employed worker Holly Warren; for the Eden Bus Project's detached youth work, and for wisdom to know what to do with our crisis over building repairs.

Bishop Steven Croft, Oxford; Bishop Alan Thomas Lawrence Wilson, Oxford – Buckingham; Bishop Colin William Fletcher, Oxford – Dorchester; Bishop Andrew Proud, Oxford – Reading (Canterbury, England)

26 July - Birkenhead Christ Church

C: Karen Freeman, Allan Goode. LM: Janice Gilbert, Jackie Harness, Judith Newburn.

Pray for us as a church that we can live into our Verse for the Year: to 'rejoice always, pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances, as we recognise this is God's will for us in Christ Jesus' (1 Thess 5:16-18).

Birkenhead Christ Church C of E School.

Bishop Williams Oluwarotimi Aladekugbe, Oyo (Ibadan, Nigeria)

Bishop Olumuyiwa Ajayi, Pankshin (Jos, Nigeria)

27 July - Oxton

C: Joe Kennedy, Christine Broad, Allen Waller. LM: Denis Jones, Josie Tuplin, Lisa Kelly.

Loving Father, bless with a rich harvest the forthcoming Birkenhead Mission. In our parish community, bring more young adults to access a life of faith, and help us all to deepen our commitment to you and to one another.

Oxton St Saviour's C of E School.

Bishop Joseph Maker Atot, Pacong (Bahr El Ghazal, Sudan)

28 July - Woodchurch High School

Bishop Abdu Elnur Kodi, Port Sudan (Northern, Sudan)

29 July - Rock Ferry

C: Chris Slater.

Bishop Bijay Nayak, Phulbani (North India)

Bishop Philip Marandih, Patna (North India)

30 July - World Athletics Championships

Seventh after Trinity

London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park continues to be the venue for spectacular international athletics. In hosting the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) Championship and the World ParaAthletics Championship, London has become the first city to host both events in the



same year. As many as 3,300 athletes from 200 countries are competing for the 690 medals available in both events. Billed as the last international event for the athletic stars distance runner Mo Farah and sprinter Usain Bolt, much excitement has been generated.

Like the 2012 Olympics, much effort effort has been expended in extending the social benefit of the games. For example, the free education programme 'Starting Blocks' has provided curriculum-linked resources for use in schools with children aged 5 to 14 all across the country. The aim has been to inspire and engage more than just those able to attend events.

Hopefully the championships will not be marred by the fallout of recent controversy about performance enhancement drugs and the avoidance of checking regimes. The biggest sporting event in the world this year should be an inspiring celebration of human endeavour.

Pray for competitors, officials and spectators, and all who share the excitement through the media.

Bishop Clifton Daniel, Pennsylvania; Bishop Dorsey W M McConnell, Pittsburgh (Ill, The Episcopal Church, USA)

31 July - Tranmere St Paul with St Luke

C: Jane Parry.

Please pray for our initiative among baptism families and for the appointment of a Children's Worker to further our ministry here.

Bishop Nceba Nopece, Port Elizabeth (Southern Africa)

1 August - Tranmere St Catherine

C: James Terry, Richard Wood, Derek Marshall.

Please pray for children who have just returned from Casterton 1@Ashville venture for 11-14s, that they would have been encouraged in their faith by their time away. Pray for young people and leaders about to go to Foremarke 3 Venture for 14-18s. Pray that the summer preaching sermon series on the Psalms may enable people to delight in God more.

Archbishop Winston Halapua, Bishop of Polynesia and Primate and Archbishop of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia; Bishop Apimeleki Nadoki, Polynesia - Vanua Levu and Taveuni; Bishop Apimeleki Qiliho, Qiliho Polynesia - Viti Levu West (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia)

2 August - Woodchurch

C: Philip Owens. LM: Ailsa Whorton, Paul Jackson, Jan Lupton.
Woodchurch C of E School.

Bishop Lindsley Ihove, Popondota; Bishop Denny Bray Guka, Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea)

3 August - Prenton

C: Matt Graham, Heather Buckley. LM: Peter Earp, Brian McEvoy, Robert Vague, Carol Vague, Anne Vise, Brenda Tollady.

Pray for growth in godliness and maturity; unity in our purpose; and for boldness and an open door to make Christ known in our parish.

Bishop Harold William Godfrey; Bishop Eulogio Alejandro Mesco; Bishop Jorge Luis Aguilar; Bishop Juan Carlos Revilla; Bishop Michael Alexander Chapman, Suffragan Bishop of Peru (South America)

4 August - Bowdon Deanery

13 incumbents and 8 assistant clergy share with many gifted lay people in ministering to the communities of south Trafford and satellite villages in 16 parishes. Please hold our communities before the Lord, that his Spirit may empower and challenge us to a life of service, mission and witness.

Bishop Christopher Foster, Portsmouth (Canterbury, England)

5 August - Altrincham St George

C: Edmund Betts, David Law.

Bishop Johannes Seoka, Pretoria (Southern Africa)

6 August - The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Eighth after Trinity / The Transfiguration of our Lord

Sadako Sasaki died when she was 12. She spent her life praying for peace. A sculpture of her in Seattle (pictured) shows her beckoning us to join her prayer. She was two years old when an atomic bomb was dropped on her home town of Hiroshima on 6th August 1945. This little girl survived the bomb and is remembered for the thousand cranes she folded before her death in 1955. Ironically the bomb was called "Little Boy". Many people have made the connection between the Feast of the Transfiguration which the church celebrates every 6th August, and this act of disfiguration which took place on that 6th August.



Matthew (17:2) describes how disciples saw how Jesus' face shone when he was seen on the mountain with Elijah and Moses. This was a meeting of three visionaries which not only transfigured Jesus' appearance but also strengthened him for his journey to Jerusalem.

Many people will be taking their holidays at this time of year including some who, like Jesus, will be taking to the mountains. Can we pray that they will see life afresh and gain strength for the next stage of their journeys back to work against all that disfigures their own lives and the lives of others?

Besides the Seattle statue there is another in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. It has a plaque that reads: 'This is our cry. This is our prayer. Peace in the world.' That is a prayer of lament, a visionary prayer and a prayer that we may see the world anew.

David Herbert, Continuing Ministerial Development Officer.

Give your people the blessing of peace.

Bishop Wilfrido Ramos Orench, Puerto Rico (XI, The Episcopal Church, USA)

7 August - Ashley

C: Keith Addenbrooke.

Bishop Andrew Rathod, Pune (North India)

8 August - Ashton upon Mersey St Martin

C: Shaun Conlon. LM: Brian Raby.

We give thanks for the support of the community and pray for our worshipping life of Christian witness as God's Church in this lovely place.

Bishop Robert Hardwick, Qu'Appelle (Rupert's Land, Canada)

Bishop Dennis Paul Drainville, Quebec (Canada, Canada)

9 August - Ashton upon Mersey St Mary Magdalene

C: Steve Rankin, Jane Beaumont. LM: Outi Rankin, Brian Macfaden, Stewart Darlow, Sephanie Rookwood, Gillian Hart, Mags Holt, Alan Douglas, Olly Douglas, Ann McBurney.

Pray for our eight new mission and ministry projects launched in January. We ask the Lord to bless them with such heavenly goodness that each one fulfils its missional purpose.

Sale St Mary's C of E School.

Bishop Warris Masih, Rajasthan (North India)

10 August - Bowdon

C: Ian Rumsey, Phil Potter, Jessica Piper. LM: John Fenton, Alan Marriott. Heavenly Father, we ask you to meet with our choir during its week in Canterbury, our families attending summer Christian festivals and our young people, some attending Soul Survivor and others completing their Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. Please encourage them, refresh them and further ignite their faith.

Bowdon C of E School.

Bishop B D Prasada Rao, Rayalaseema (South India)

11 August - Broadheath

C: Helen Scarisbrick, Lisa Redfern. LM: Peter Johnson.

Bishop João Cancio Peixoto, Recife (Brazil)

12 August - Dunham Massey St Margaret

C: Jerry Sutton.

Bishop Enock Tombe, Rejaf (Loryko, Sudan)



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Chester



Bible