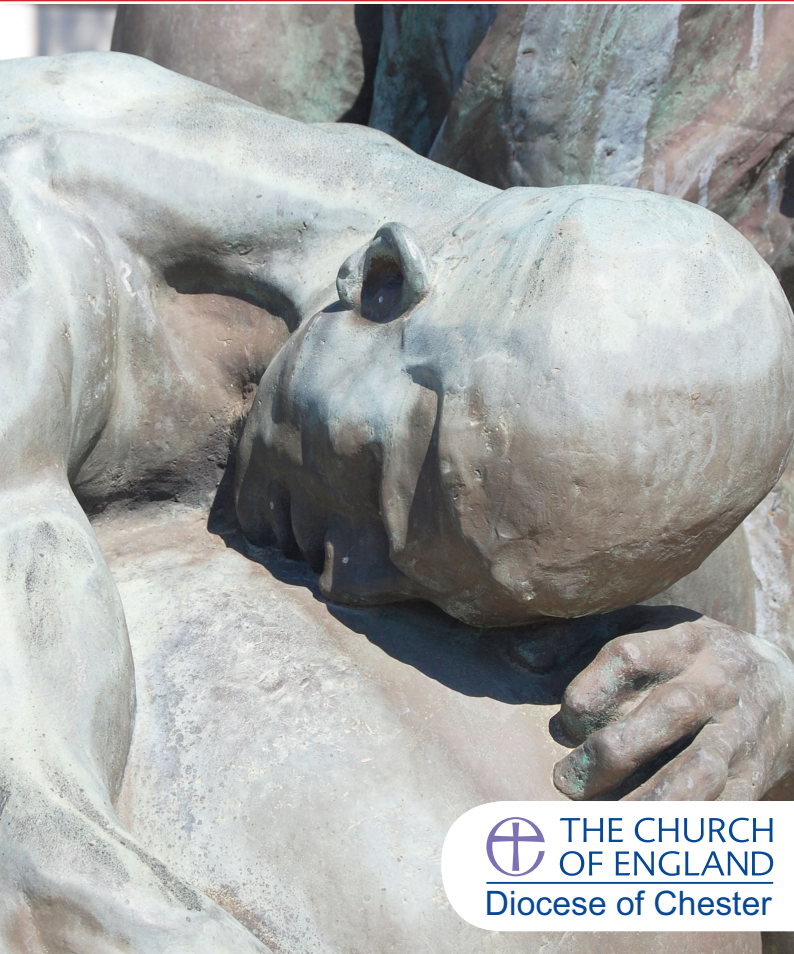


Cycle of Prayer

13 August 2017 - 23 December 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

One of the great lessons which we can take from the early church is their unity in praying for one another. I wonder if we sometimes take for granted, or overlook, the Epistles' constant celebration and rejoicing at the lives and works of their brothers and sisters in Christ. Paul writes to the Thessalonians, 'We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers' (1 Thess 1:2). John writes to his friend Gaius 'Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul



is getting along well' (3 John 1:2). As well as this, we see the early church inviting others to pray for them, Paul writes to the Colossians 'At the same time pray for us as well that God will open to us a door for the word, that we may declare the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison, so that I may reveal it clearly, as I should' (Col 4:3,4).

Praying for one another binds the church together in unity. It allows us to share our common purpose in building the Kingdom of God. It allows us to stand with one another in weakness, and to rejoice with one another when things are going well. By the grace of God, it has the power to change our lives, our church and our world.

In this slim volume rests such potential. It holds the invitation to pray for other churches in our Diocese, to join our voices as one as we pray for God's Kingdom to grow. It is an invitation to prayerfully know those with whom we share this task and to stand with them in the power of Christ.

Andy Stinson

Diocesan Worship Adviser



Welcome

Many thanks go to the contributors to this edition of the Prayer Cycle. Like the first edition for this year, this issue includes pieces for the Sunday entries by many authors. You'll notice thoughts prompted by biblical passages, topics related to the Christian calendar, and items about ministry endeavours, Martin Luther and the Reformation, and other significant anniversaries, amongst other subjects. The common thread through all these subjects is that the authors have felt moved to generalise their thoughts enough to make them usable in the prayers of others. Personal concerns, interests and enthusiasms have spurred the writers to turn those things into material we can all utilize.



Such material is always welcome for possible inclusion in future editions. All that is asked is that the topic is generalisable and runs to no more than 200 words or so. A copyright free photograph is an added bonus. The Prayer Cycle aims to address all areas of our common life so don't be afraid to write something arising from your own perspective or out of a particular concern you hold dear. Submission cannot be an absolute guarantee that your contribution will be published but wherever possible we try hard to include all that has been sent in.

Please submit your brief article for a Sunday entry to jane.hood@chester.anglican.org by 28th September at the latest for the next edition.

Christopher Burkett

Editor and Director of Ministry

13 August - Showing the Kingdom

Ninth after Trinity

Jesus said to his disciples, 'You've been given insight into God's kingdom. You know how it works. Not everybody has this gift, this insight; it hasn't been given to them. Whenever someone has a ready heart for this, the insights and understandings flow freely. But if there is no readiness,



any trace of receptivity soon disappears. That's why I tell stories: to create readiness, to nudge the people toward receptive insight' (Matthew 13:2, The Message).

Let us become a church full of children, young people and families. A church that is honest with one another; admitting our struggles with relationships, finance, addiction, mental health, and family. Wrestling with our doubts openly, and walking with God faithfully – a church full of people unafraid to be themselves. How do we do this? We create good news stories in people's lives. We advance the Kingdom of God by making a difference.

Jesus said 'Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth' (Matthew 5:13, The Message). 'You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God' (Matthew, 5:14-16, The Message).

Jonathan Masters, Youth, Children and Families' Missioner
Pray for younger generations, that they will have examples, and be examples, of living faith for us to walk and grow with in our journeys of faith.

14 August - Dunham Massey St Mark

C: Jerry Sutton QVRM TD CF.

Bishop Joseph Garang Atem, Renk (Upper Nile, Sudan)

15 August - Hale

C: Keith Addenbrooke. LM: Julie Withers, John Moss.

Please pray for our Young@Heart holiday at home week at the end of August, for fun, friendship and fellowship for all who come.

Bishop Nicholas Knisely, Rhode Island (I, The Episcopal Church, USA)

16 August - Oughtrington

C: Michael Burgess. LM: Giselle Rusted, Roy Bond, Sheila Thacker, Ray Hepworth.

We give thanks for our patron, St Peter, whose symbol is the keys. May we unlock and open the joy and good news of the kingdom to those around in all we do and say.

Bishop John Daudi Lupaa, Rift Valley (Tanzania)

17 August - Partington & Carrington

C: Andrew Knight.

We are praying for growth: in unity as a church, in our outreach to youngsters and families, and in ecumenical links as we share mission to Partington & Carrington.

Bishop Filadelfo Oliviera Neto, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

18 August - Hale Barns with Ringway

C: Clair Jaquiss. LM: Vivienne Plummer, Mary Babbage, Tim Gordon.

Bishop Michael Vono, Rio Grande (VII, The Episcopal Church, USA)

19 August - Sale St Anne

C: Julian Heaton, Tracy Ward. LM: Alan Ward, Paul Edwards.

Please pray for the Lord's blessing on the four strands of our consultancy; renewing St Anne's building, new mission work at St Francis, growing our work with children, young people and their families and communication within and beyond the parish.

Sale St Anne's C of E School.

Archbishop Roger Herft, Perth; Bishop Kate Wilmot, Assistant Bishop of Perth; Bishop Tom Wilmot, Perth – Eastern and Rural Region; Bishop Jeremy James, Perth – Goldfields – Country Region (Western Australia, Australia);

Bishop Rob Gillion, Riverina (New South Wales, Australia)

20 August - For the Common Good

Tenth after Trinity



'Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few' said Winston Churchill on 20th August 1940. He was reflecting on the bravery of pilots involved in armed conflict over the Channel. The Battle of Britain reversed a more common pattern of conflict in which many are sacrificed for few. Contemporary clashes of culture can result in the many being sacrificed for the few. Our lifestyle comes at a cost to the poor in the two-thirds world. A substantial element of our national wealth comes from the arms trade. The way we live personally affects others.

August, for many, is a time for relaxation and taking stock. It presents an opportunity to wonder not how much others have given

for us, but what God might call us to give for others.

On this same date, further back in history, Venus and Jupiter were in conjunction. It is a possible explanation for the Star of Bethlehem, the announcement of a coming Saviour, the one who gave himself for the many. That is the mission of the church too – the Spirit is given to us 'for the common good'. May it be said of us 'never was so much given'.

Liz Shercliff, Director of Studies for Readers

Pray for the common good.

Bishop Prince Singh, Rochester (II, The Episcopal Church, USA)

Bishop James Langstaff, Rochester (Canterbury, England)

21 August - Sale St Paul

C: Barbara Sharp. LM: Michael Riley, Yvonne Kerridge, Karen Salisbury, Ann Morris.

Pray that St Paul's continues to love and serve the local community, pray for growth in numbers and in depths of faith.

Bishop David Robinson, Rockhampton (Queensland, Australia)

22 August - Timperley

C: Jim Bridgman, Jenny Bridgman, Suzanne Eddleston. LM: Kirsty Allan.
This summer the parish welcomes a new curate, Suzie. Please pray for Suzie as she settles with us, and for our churches to be places of welcome, support and encouragement for her. Pray for Timperley in this new time of training and equipping.

Bishop Francis Loyo Mori, Rokon (Loryko, Sudan)

23 August - Warburton

C: Michael Burgess. LM: Giselle Rusted.

We give thanks for our patron, St Werburgh, whose symbol is the goose. May we cherish and value the good gifts of God's creation, as we pray for farmers and all who work on the land in our parish.

*Bishop John Adiema, Rorya (Tanzania)
Bishop Joseph Mgomi, Ruaha (Tanzania)*

24 August - Altrincham C of E School

St Bartholomew

Bishop Alapayo Manyang Kuctiel, Rumbek (Bahr El Ghazal, Sudan)

25 August - Chester Deanery

We thank God for the members of our deanery who give of their time and skills with generosity and graciousness, for those who have recently stepped down and those elected for the next three years. We pray for the election of a new Lay Chair and ask God's blessing on whoever that will be. We hold before God all those who labour in our parishes for the work of the Kingdom, that they will be inspired and strengthened in the companionship of the saints.

Bishop Pedaculi Birakengana, Rumonge (Burundi)

26 August - Ashton Hayes

C: David Lamb. LM: Alan Downen. Philip Goodall.

Please pray for: our Pastoral Worker-in-training, Margaret Papworth; increasing commitment to our mission support for Teso Development Trust in Uganda and Tearfund's 'Connected Church' LAMB Hospital Project in Bangladesh; patience as we seek to improve our building for better worship and community use.

Bishop Donald David Phillips, Rupert's Land (Rupert's Land, Canada)

27 August - David's Example

Eleventh after Trinity



But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God, my times are in your hands ...' (Psalm 31:14-15, NRSV)

What do we do with the time that we have? How do we make the best of each day? It's not a question of stuffing every moment with frenetic activity though, but rather using the time that we have wisely and well, and surely that includes

loving our families and friends, reaching out to those who need our help, delighting in the world around us, learning new skills; but not forgetting being faithful in prayer and worship as well. By doing that we are cultivating our relationship with God who loves us and cares for us, and that is at the heart of what David is talking about in this psalm.

He is having a tough time though. We read that he is 'in distress', his eyes 'grow weak with sorrow', his life is 'consumed with anguish', and 'his bones grow weak'. David is clothing with words his inner heartbreak which is severe. His words might resonate with you as you read this; after all no-one's life is entirely free from trouble.

Look how David turns it all around though. He finds the courage to veer away from dwelling on his sufferings to remember closeness with God. God is sovereign in his life and the relationship David has with him is both intimate and indeed the most truly real thing about his life. David's very times are in God's hands. And that is the same for us. There is real strength in remembering that and living by it.

Vivien Gisby Warden of Pastoral Workers and Readers, Vicar of Weston.

Pray for those troubled today by any circumstance.

Bishop Maternus Kapinga, Ruvuma (Tanzania)

28 August - Barrow

C: Andy Stinson. LM: Judith Smith.

Heavenly Father, your Son Jesus Christ prayed for the needs of the world, grant us the grace to follow his example and grow the life of corporate prayer in our parish and through it, may we discern your vision for your Church in Barrow.

Barrow C of E School.

Bishop Reuben Kisembo, Ruwenzori (Uganda)

Bishop Jackson Nzerebende, South Ruwenzori (Uganda)

29 August - Chester St John the Baptist

C: David Chesters. LM: Keith Allen, Nan Williams.

*Bishop Melter Jiki Tais, Sabah; Bishop John Yeo, Assistant Bishop of Sabah
(South East Asia)*

30 August - Chester Holy Trinity Without-the-Walls (Blacon)

C: Tina Upton, Christopher Burkett. LM: Sarah Dutton.

Please pray for continued building up of this church: through prayer, Bible reading and worship; through loving service, especially in our Community Outreach Project; through alterations to our church building (praying for provision of the necessary funds).

Vacant, Sabongidda-Ora (Bendel, Nigeria)

31 August - Chester St Mary Without-the-Walls (Handbridge)

C: Paul Dawson, Laura Rhodes. LM: Robert Croft, Linda Manning.

Please pray for our continuing endeavours to build a new Parish Centre to bring much needed space and facilities into the local community. Please ask for God's blessing on our autumn initiative as we take the next step in our ministry to children and younger families.

Overleigh St Mary's C of E School.

Bishop Raphael Hess, Saldanha Bay (Southern Africa)

1 September - Chester St Paul with St Luke

C: Chris Blunt. LM: Richard Price, Raymond Walley, Sylvia Walley, Jenny Gilbertson, John Somerville, Jamie Swinerd.

*Bishop Nicholas Holtam, Salisbury; Bishop Edward Condry, Salisbury –
Ramsbury; Bishop Karen Gorham, Salisbury – Sherborne (Canterbury,
England)*

2 September - Christleton

C: Malcolm Cowan.

Bishop Pinuel Dip, Sambalpur (North India)

3 September - Leonard Cheshire Centenary

Twelfth after Trinity



Group Captain Leonard Cheshire (later created Baron Chester) was born in the city of Chester on 7 September 1917. During World War Two he became one of the most decorated of RAF pilots, eventually being awarded the Victoria Cross in 1944. He commanded the famous 617 'Dambusters' Squadron, as well as completing a hundred other bombing missions. He was the only British observer at the dropping of the atomic bomb on Nagasaki in

1945; an experience which had a profound effect on him.

At the end of the war Cheshire developed tuberculosis and spent eighteen months in hospital, during which he converted to Roman Catholicism; remaining an ardent believer for the rest of his life. Invalided out of the RAF in 1946, he began a series of social welfare initiatives, all of which failed. He was left with large debts and an enormous empty house in Liss, Hampshire. To this house he brought an incurable patient from a local hospital to live. In this inauspicious and unplanned way began the Cheshire Homes. Cheshire, often with his second wife, Sue Ryder, worked in the charitable sector for the rest his life. He died in 1992.

Now with 100 homes in the UK, and a global alliance stretching to 54 other countries, Leonard Cheshire Disability provides housing, care and support to thousands of disabled people so that they can have 'the freedom to live their lives the way they choose.'

More information from: <https://www.leonardcheshire.org/about-us>

Pray for the work of Leonard Cheshire Disability, in the UK and overseas.

Bishop James Mathes, San Diego; Bishop Chester Talton, San Joaquin;

Bishop David Rice, San Joaquin (VIII, The Episcopal Church, USA)

4 September - Dodleston

C: Hazel Clarke. LM: Pamela Attree, Bob Jackson.

Pray for our rector, Hazel Clarke, our churchwardens Elaine and Fran and all PCC members. We pray for our two churches that we may find ways to support each other and work together in unity and yet respecting the unique character of each church as we seek to serve Jesus in our communities in England and Wales.

Dodleston C of E School.

Bishop Alexander A Wandag, Santiago (Philippines)

5 September - Eccleston & Pulford

C: Roger Clarke. LM: Robert Hughes.

We give thanks for the flourishing of our new "Messy Church" and the introduction of All Age Worship.

Please pray for the implementation of our "Visions and Dreams" Parish Plan, and also for our Stewardship Renewal programme beginning in September.

Eccleston C of E School.

Bishop Flavio Augusto Borges Irala, Sao Paulo (Brazil)

6 September - Guilden Sutton

C: Mark Hart, Heather Carty. LM: Denise Campbell, Pauline Holgate, Libby Owen.

Guilden Sutton C of E School.

Bishop Blessing Erifeta, Sapele (Bendel, Nigeria)

7 September - Hoole

C: John Kirkland. LM: Ron Davies, Vicki Bulgin, Bill Holt, Missy Johnson. Pray for the new Missional Communities which we have launched to make a difference in the local community, for every member of All Saints to see the opportunities they have to make Jesus known on their frontlines, and for our new Youth Pastor, Missy, as she settles in to her post.

Hoole C of E School.

Bishop Michael William Hawkins, Saskatchewan; Bishop Adam Halkett, Saskatchewan - Indigenous Ministry; Bishop David Irving, Saskatoon (Rupert's Land, Canada)

8 September - Kelsall

C: Peter Mackriell. LM: John Diggle, Andrew Macauley, Lis Wye.

Bishop Paul Kiptoo Masaba, Sebei (Uganda)

9 September - Lache cum Saltney

C: Hennie Johnston, Gary Kennaugh, Simon Chesters. LM: Ron Davies, Nikki Smith, Pippa Douglas.

Pray for St Mark's as we seek God's discernment as to what it means for us a church to go deeper out with God, and to cast our nets with greater expectation in our spiritual lives, and as we go deeper out into the community.

Bishop Alexander Asmah, Sekondi (Ghana, West Africa)

10 September - Setting God's People Free

Thirteenth after Trinity

Jesus calls every Christian to live and work for him. Through our baptism, we are commissioned to be his witnesses. Baptism is much more fundamental to our identity as Christian disciples than whether we are ordained, or whether we undertake some other form of authorised ministry in the church. We are all one in Christ, and the Holy Spirit gives gifts to each one of us.



This means that we are just as much the church of Jesus Christ Monday to Saturday in our workplaces, schools, neighbourhoods and families, as we are in church on a Sunday.

Earlier this year, the Church of England produced a report called 'Setting God's People Free'. This called for the church to rediscover the vision that we are all called to live and work together for Jesus – not just those of us who happen to wear a dog-collar. The Diocese of Chester is going to be a Pilot Diocese for the implementation of this vision across the church, so expect to hear much more about this over the months to come. Meanwhile, please pray that as God's people, we will all be encouraged and affirmed in the ministry and mission he has entrusted to us.

Mike Gilbertson, Archdeacon of Chester

Bishop James Richard Wong Yin Song, Seychelles (Indian Ocean)

11 September - Plemstall

C: Mark Hart, Heather Carty. LM: Pauline Holgate.

Bishop Pete Wilcox, Sheffield; Bishop Peter Burrows, Sheffield – Doncaster (York, England)

12 September - Tarvin

C: Adam Friend, Barbara King. LM: Colin Haworth, Jo Richards, Mary Burgess, Ron Fuller.

Please pray for our work with children and families as we grow and develop this important generation of faith growers for the future.

Duddon St Peter's C of E School.

Bishop Charles Kija Ngusa, Shinyanga (Tanzania)

13 September - Upton-by-Chester

C: Paul Newman, Dave O'Brien. LM: Barbara Capstick.

Upton Heath C of E School.

Bishop Laurent Mbanda, Shyira; Bishop Samuel Mugisha Mugiraneza, Coadjutor Bishop of Shyira; Bishop Jered Kalimba, Shyogwe (Rwanda)

14 September - Plas Newton

Holy Cross Day

C: Rob Peters. LM: Julie Ellison, Rachel Bathurst, Alison Linfield, David Blackmore, Christine Blackmore.

Bishop Alwin John Samuel, Sialkot (Pakistan)

15 September - Chester Christ Church

C: Graham Shaw, Glyn Jones, Ralph Kemp. LM: Veronica Johnson.

We pray for our work with students and those in their 20s. We pray for the students who will be moving to Chester this month, that they might find a worshipping community to be part of, and that Christ Church might serve them well. We pray also that lives may continue to be restored through Jesus as Christ Church continues its ministry in Newtown, Chester.

Bishop Rennis Ponniah, Singapore (South East Asia)

16 September - Chester St Oswald & St Thomas of Canterbury

C: Stephen Sheridan. LM: Keith Allen, Hugh Jones.

Chester Blue Coat C of E School.

Bishop James Min Dein, Sittwe (Myanmar)

17 September - Pastoral Workers

Fourteenth after Trinity



Pastoral Workers are men and women with a practical ministry of pastoral care in their local church that often extends to the local community as well. They visit the sick, comfort the bereaved and befriend the lonely. They run luncheon clubs, Messy Churches and prayer groups. They organise baptism preparation sessions, toddler groups and take home communions. All this and much more, comes within the remit of Pastoral Workers. Please pray for those who will be admitted and licensed in the cathedral on September 23rd and the ministries they are beginning:

Katy Jones (Hyde St George), Wendy Luxon (Disley) and Jo Whittall (Sandiway).

Please also pray for those becoming emeritus this year and offer thanks for the willingness of people to serve in the role of Pastoral Worker, and for all that they do in their parishes.

Vivien Gisby, Warden of Pastoral Workers and Readers, Vicar of Weston.
Archdeacon Peter Eagles, Sodor & Man (York, England)

18 September - Chester St Peter

C: Jon Phillips.

St Peter's is enjoying the blessing of what it is to be a city centre church. Within the building prayer is appreciated for our two services that happen in the week but also the art wellbeing workshops run by 3rd Space; our 6 day a week cafe blessed by our cafe chaplains; Night Church that meets fortnightly for the Night Economy of Chester and our in-house Isabella Theatre Community – a fresh expression of church! Outside the walls we would love prayer for our City Chaplaincy team going out weekly to bless the shops, the shoppers and everyone in between!

Bishop Augustin Omole, Sokoto (Kaduna, Nigeria)

19 September - The Bishops' Blue Coat C of E High School

Bishop George Erwau, Soroti (Uganda)

20 September - University Church Free School

Bishop Nathan Ahimbisibwe, South Ankole; Bishop Johnson Twinomujuni, West Ankole (Uganda)

21 September - Chadkirk Deanery

St Matthew

Bishop John Tarrant, South Dakota (VI, The Episcopal Church, USA)

22 September - Bredbury St Barnabas

C: Sue Shrine. LM: Daryl Beaumont.

Bishop Dharmaraj Rasalam, South Kerala (South India)

23 September - Bredbury St Mark

C: Andy Bull, Jayne Coxall. LM: Ruth Bull, Carole Perry, Eunice Jepson.
Bredbury St Mark's C of E School.

*Bishop Matthew Mhagama, South West Tanganyika;
Bishop Sadock Makaya Western Tanganyika (Tanzania)*

24 September - Harvest

Fifteenth after Trinity

A few years ago the British Nutrition Foundation published the results of survey they had conducted amongst children at school. The survey disclosed that nearly a third of primary school children in the UK then thought that cheese comes from plants; one in ten secondary school children believed that tomatoes grow underground; and one in five primary school children said that fish fingers were made of chicken.

Before adults get too indignant about children it is best to remember that it wasn't so long ago that many adults were convinced by a spoof TV report concerning the spaghetti harvest in southern Switzerland.

On April Fools' Day 1957 the well-

respected BBC TV programme Panorama detailed in a three-minute report the harvesting of spaghetti from trees festooned with pasta. The next day the BBC was contacted by many viewers asking how they could cultivate a spaghetti tree!

Consumerism, marketing and mass consumption make for some distancing between the food we consume and the realities of its production and growth. Foody fashions and a new concern for the environment only go so far in re-establishing a connection between what we eat and where it comes from. In thanking God for the harvest we seek to honour what this good earth produces, the labour of those who grow what we eat, and our fundamental relatedness to the earth on which God has placed us. In this the Bible's origin in an agrarian society calls us back to a proper acknowledgement of our own place in creation.

Pray for all food producers – for just reward for their labours and respect for their endeavours.

Bishop Leopold Frade, Southeast Florida; Bishop Peter David Eaton, Coadjutor Bishop (IV, The Episcopal Church, USA)



25 September - Romiley

C: Richard Pennystan, Jon Lindsay-Scott. LM: Molly Dow, Audrey Murch, Alan Murch, Elle Bird, Alan Bancroft.

Bishop Benito Juarez-Martinez, Southeastern Mexico; Bishop Lino Rodriguez-Amaro, Western Mexico (Mexico)

26 September - Disley

C: Margaret Owens. LM: John Owens, Janet Aspinall, Jack Fuller, Rob Stoba, Mike Hobart, Jenny Kidd, Wendy Luxon.

Bishop Humberto Maiztegue, Southern Brazil (Brazil)

27 September - High Lane

C: Janet Parker, Lynne Bowden. LM: John Wilson, Jackie Jonas, Tony Berry.

Bishop John Mwela, Southern Highlands (Tanzania)

28 September - Low Marple

C: Ed McKenna, Ann Hyde. LM: Geoff Bramhall, Tony Doust.

Bishop Alinafe Kalemba, Southern Malawi (Central Africa)

29 September - Marple

Michael and All Angels

C: Daniel Currie, Lesley Currie, Phil Harris. LM: Keith Frost, Martin Palmer, Dennis Watson.

Marple All Saints' C of E School.

Bishop James Ochiel, Southern Nyanza (Kenya)

Bishop Boniface Kwangu, Victoria Nyanza (Tanzania)

30 September - Compstall (or Werneth)

C: Lynn Boyle, Wendy Atkinson. LM: Mick Boyle, Pamela Etherington-Smith.

Bishop Thomas Breidenthal, Southern Ohio (V, The Episcopal Church, USA)

1 October - Anniversary of first Earth Satellite

Sixteenth after Trinity

Sixty years ago – 4th October 1957 – the Soviet Union successfully launched Sputnik 1, the world's first artificial satellite of the Earth. The satellite was about the size of a beach ball (its' diameter was less than 23 inches) and it weighed around 184 pounds. This small metal sphere with its distinctive four radio antennas took just 96.2 minutes to orbit the Earth on its elliptical path.



In the political climate of the Cold War this surprise achievement for Communist science was not universally welcomed. The United States response was the launch of its own satellite, Explorer 1, in 1958, inaugurating the 'Space Race' that extended Cold War competition into the 'next frontier.' Cheshire played a unique role in those ventures in that Jodrell Bank had what was then the world's largest steerable dish radio telescope. Jodrell Bank's telescope was the only one in the world able to radar track Sputnik's booster rocket.

Sputnik 1 spent three months in orbit and travelled some 43 million miles at a speed of 18,000 mph. It burned up while re-entering Earth's atmosphere on 4th January 1958. Whatever else may be said about Soviet science and the competition with the West that spurred it, undoubtedly Sputnik changed history by opening the path to the satellite technology we now all use.

There is a lot of co-operation nowadays between scientists of all nationalities and we continue to hope and pray that those who work for peace and friendship will always have the upper hand.

Graham Green, Christian Prayer and Spirituality Officer, Vicar of Helsby
Pray for all who now depend on satellite technology.

Bishop Danilo Labacanacruz Bustamante, Southern Philippines

2 October - Whaley Bridge

C: Margaret Jones, Richard West. LM: Michael Connell, Beryl Axcell, Sue Mellor.

We pray for guidance as we seek ways to engage more effectively with younger adults and support them on their faith journey.

Taxal and Fernilee C of E School. Kettlethulme St James' C of E School.

Bishop Herman Hollerith, Southern Virginia (III, The Episcopal Church, USA)

3 October - Mellor

C: Alex Sanders. LM: Nick Sanders, Peter Harrison.

Please pray for our church community as we seek to widen our welcome to others and to share the good news of the Gospel with all, by prayer, word and action.

Bishop Christopher Chessun, Southwark; Bishop Johnathan Clark, Southwark – Croydon; Bishop Richard Cheetham, Southwark – Kingston; Bishop Karowei Dorgu, Southwark – Woolwich (Canterbury, England)

4 October - Frodsham Deanery

Bishop Paul Gavin Williams, Southwell & Nottingham; Bishop Anthony Porter, Southwell & Nottingham – Sherwood (York, England)

5 October - Alvanley and Manley

C: Ray Samuels.

That our two congregations may grow in faith, hope and love as they face the disruption of a change of vicar.

Bishop Dabney Smith, Southwest Florida (IV, The Episcopal Church, USA)

6 October - Dunham-on-the-Hill

C: Graham Green.

We give thanks for the renovation of our old church organ and the installation of our first sound system, as we continue to worship the Lord in this place and to serve our village community.

Bishop Mark Allen Bourlakas, Southwestern Virginia (III, The Episcopal Church, USA)

7 October - Frodsham

C: Michael Mills. LM: Andrew Rudd, Gail Fulbrook, Gill Newcombe, Mavis Thompson.

Frodsham C of E School.

Bishop Gretchen Rehberg, Spokane (VIII, The Episcopal Church, USA)

Bishop Daniel Martins, Springfield (V, The Episcopal Church, USA)

8 October - Marking Reformation 500

Seventeenth after Trinity

An extract the statement from the Presidents of Churches Together in England who represent the Western traditions of the Church (see Churches Together in England website for full statement):

'We acknowledge with sorrow that during the years of the English reformation our ancestors in the faith inflicted unspeakable violence on each other. We rejoice, however, that by the grace of God we have learnt to look at that history through the eyes of each other's martyrs, to appreciate their integrity, courage and self-sacrifice, and above all their faithful witness to God. As we commemorate the 500th anniversary, we want therefore to acknowledge both the good that came out of this period of our history, and also the pain inflicted and the scars that remain.

We therefore urge the churches in England to keep this anniversary together in the spirit of five 'R's

Rejoicing – Remembering – Reforming – Repenting – Reconciling

Pray that the churches of our land may honour each other.

Bishop Alan Smith, St Albans; Bishop Richard Atkinson, St Albans – Bedford; Bishop Michael Beasley, St Albans – Hertford (Canterbury, England)



9 October - Grange

C: Wullie Docherty. LM: Ken Wooldridge.

Bishop Gregory Cameron, St Asaph (Wales)

10 October - Hallwood Ecumenical Parish

C: Lisa MacInnes. LM: Penny Hennessey, Alan Ventham, Ann-Marie Jones.

Bishop Joanna Penberthy, St Davids (Wales)

11 October - Halton

C: Tony Mitchell. LM: Alan McGuire.

St Mary's Halton C of E School.

*Bishop Martin Seeley, St Edmundsbury & Ipswich; Bishop Michael Harrison,
St Edmundsbury & Ipswich – Dunwich (Canterbury, England)*

12 October - Helsby

C: Graham Green. LM: Shirley Knipe.

Please pray that the Lord will bless our Stewardship Campaign in our offering to God of our talents, our time and a generous heart. Bless our service of those who live in our community and all who come to listen and to pray.

Bishop Richard Fenwick, St Helena (Southern Africa)

Bishop Martin Breytenbach, St Mark the Evangelist (Southern Africa)

13 October - Kingsley

C: Pete Rugen, Hilary Merrington. LM: Audrey Griffiths.

Kingsley St John's C of E School.

Bishop Festus Yeboah-Asuamah, Sunyani (Ghana, West Africa)

Bishop Jacob Ayeebo, Tamale (Ghana, West Africa)

14 October - Norley

C: Pete Rugen, Hilary Merrington. LM: Rob Kophamel.

Norley C of E School.

Bishop John Davies, Swansea & Brecon (Wales)

15 October - New Readers

Eighteenth after Trinity



Readers are lay people, called by God, trained and licensed by the Church to preach, teach, lead worship and assist in pastoral, evangelistic and liturgical work. Modern Reader ministry was re-established in the Church of England at Lambeth Palace on Ascension Day 1866. Please pray for those who will be admitted and licensed in the cathedral on 21 October, and the ministries they are beginning:

Andrew Bradley-Gibbons (Eastham); Sue Hadden (Sandiway); Malcolm Haigh, Upton (Overchurch); Peter Ham (Hoylake); Janet Malpas (Hollingworth); Lynne Raphael (Ashton upon Mersey); Deborah Rowlands (Wrenbury); Paul Stevenson (Sandiway); Christina Theobald (Wilmslow).

Please also pray for those transferring to a new parish and those becoming emeritus. Offer thanks for the ministry of Readers in this diocese and people's willingness to serve in this role.

Vivien Gisby, Warden of Readers and Pastoral Workers
Archbishop Glenn Davies, Sydney; Bishop Peter Tasker, Sydney – Liverpool; Bishop Chris Edwards, Sydney – North; Bishop Robert Forsyth, Sydney – South; Bishop Ivan Lee, Sydney – West; Bishop Al Stewart, Sydney – Wollongong (New South Wales, Australia)

16 October - Norton

C: Stephen Torr.

Norton St Berteline's C of E School.

Bishop Elias Chakupewa, Tabora (Tanzania)

17 October - Runcorn All Saints

C: Derek Guest. LM: Emma Jones.

Runcorn All Saints' C of E School.

Bishop Elias Chakupewa, Tabora (Tanzania)

18 October - Runcorn Holy Trinity

St Luke

C: Derek Guest.

*Bishop Samson Mwaluda, Taita-Taveta; Bishop Liverson Mng'onda,
Coadjutor Bishop of Taita-Taveta (Kenya)*

19 October - Runcorn Weston St John

C: Vivien Gisby. LM: Liana Jones.

Bishop David Lai, Taiwan (VIII, The Episcopal Church, USA)

20 October - Runcorn St Michael and All Angels

C: Vicki Schofield, Helen Browne. LM Bob Browne, Stanley Sefton.

Bishop Maimbo Mndolwa, Tanga (Tanzania)

Bishop R Mwita Akiri, Tarime (Tanzania)

21 October - Thornton-le-Moors with Ince & Elton

C: Ruth Ackroyd. LM: Jen Pilling.

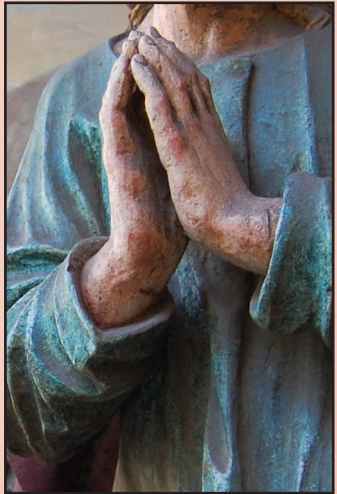
Generous God, we thank you for the love and commitment of your people here and for opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus. We pray that the Holy Spirit would deepen our prayer life and blow through all our worship and work for the Kingdom to transform lives to God's glory. We pray especially for the new monthly Fresh Expressions worship at Elton Church Hall, for Messy Church, Supertots, Youth club, and Seniors Activity Group and for funding applications for the redevelopment of the Church Hall.

Vacant, Tasmania; Bishop Christopher Jones, Assistant Bishop of Tasmania; Bishop Ross Nicholson, Assistant Bishop of Tasmania (Ex-P, Australia)

22 October - Quiet Time

Nineteenth after Trinity

When I was in my teens as a young keen and committed Christian I was introduced to the practice of the Quiet Time. At the beginning of the day or in my case at the end of the day I was taught to spend time with God reading and meditating upon the Scriptures with an appropriate explanation of the context and relevance. For a number of years I found the notes 'Daily Bread' published by Scripture Union especially helpful. This input from God helped me to pray and utter my own thanksgivings, confessions and intercessions with a greater devotion than if I had not heard God speaking through His Word. This practice of the Quiet Time has stood me in good stead throughout my life (although there have been times of neglect and



laziness which we are all prone to suffer from!). As I give thanks and pray for my family, for friends, for my church, for missionary work, I have found that the God who speaks in scripture inspires my thoughts and prayers and comes to assist in my own daily discipleship. In a world of so much stress and human endeavour I believe it is so necessary to meet with God and commune with Him to undergird our own profession of faith.

Rowland Crook (formerly Chairman of Retired Clergy Association)
Pray for all who join us in prayer today and every day, wherever they may be.

Bishop Leonard Dawea, Temotu (Melanesia)

23 October - Crowton

C: Pete Rugen, Hilary Merrington. LM: Anne Davidson Lund.
Crowton Christ Church C of E School.

Bishop Paul Modi, Terekeka (Loryko, Sudan)

24 October - Runcorn St Chad's RC / C of E High School

Chaplains: Neil Hammond, Jenny Owen.

Bishop Andrew Doyle, Texas; Bishop Jeff Fisher, Suffragan Bishop of Texas; Bishop Dena Harrison, Suffragan Bishop of Texas; Bishop David Reed, West Texas; Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson West Texas (VII, The Episcopal Church, USA)

25 October - Cheadle Deanery

Bishop David Parsons, The Arctic; Bishop Darren McCartney, Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of the Arctic (Rupert's Land, Canada)

26 October - Bramhall

C: Simon Marsh. LM: Marina Bennett, John Baker.

Lord, open our eyes to all that is good and beautiful; help us to know our errors and our limitations, to recognise the worth of all made in your image, to look upon the world with compassionate eyes, and to be open to the influence of your Holy Spirit.

Bishop Gladstone Adams, The Episcopal Church in South Carolina (IV, The Episcopal Church, USA)

27 October - Cheadle All Hallows

C: Paul Cumming. LM: Barbara Forrest, Terry Thorpe, Tony Mason, David Town.

Bishop John Frank Ford, The Murray (South Australia, Australia)

28 October - Cheadle St Mary

Ss Simon and Jude

C: Rob Munroe, Mike Newman, Simon Donohoe, Stanley Tomalin. LM: Mike Vine, Peter Dooley, Philip Wells, Mel MacLeod, Ruth Ormiston, Malcolm Winton, Catherine Johnson, Philip Newsome, Winsome Richbell-Brown, Liz Duxbury.

Bishop Julius Njuguna Wanyoike, Thika (Kenya)

29 October - Martin Luther

Last Sunday after Trinity



'On All Hallows' Eve, Saturday, 31 October 1517 and "out of a love for the truth and from a desire to elucidate it," the Reverend Father Martin Luther, already a professor of theology at thirty-three, walked to the Castle church in Wittenberg and attached his ninety-five theses to the door. Far from initiating an academic debate about their contents, which was his intention, his gesture was to prove a key event in sparking the European Reformation.' So writes Rod Garner in a brief essay on remembering Martin Luther in his book 'Something in the Air' (2016).

Garner's comment discloses how the Reformation's beginnings are closely entwined with the personality and faith of this one man – Martin Luther. Many other formidable characters, political and religious, were to have a hand, positively and negatively, in the movement. Its' precursor's were many, and its' advance was determined by forces various and varied. And yet the Reformation is inconceivable without the intervention of one little-travelled but widely-read soon to be ex-monk. What was to have continent-wide, indeed eventually worldwide, repercussions, began in the convictions of this one local cleric.

What Luther sparked into flame changed the spiritual life of Christians, and with that change came many other changes in economic, social and political spheres. Indeed it is no exaggeration to say that some things so taken-for-granted today, like social pluralism, national identity, and personal faith expression, find their origins in the Reformation Luther provoked.

Offer thanks for what was positive in the Reformation, and pray for understanding and joint effort by Christians of all traditions.

Vacant, Thoothukudi, Nazareth (South India)
Bishop Jayaraj Christdoss, Tirunelveli (South India)

30 October - Cheadle Hulme All Saints

C: Janet Bacon. LM: Michael Aiers, Pat Yates.

Bishop Jean Paul Solo, Toamasina (Indian Ocean)

31 October - Cheadle Hulme St Andrew

C: Christopher Hobbs, Anthony Barnshaw. LM: Carron Hopwood, George Wetherill, Mike Yates, Richard Prestwich, Peter Budd, Jennie Prince.

Bishop John Hiromichi Kato, Tohoku (Japan)

1 November - Gatley

All Saints' Day

C: Matthew Carlisle. LM: Jim Crook, Margaret Sidebotham, Belinda Priestley.

Please pray for our Children's Service and Sunday Club; that God will draw new people to them. Pray for our ministry in local schools. Pray that the Church may be built up and the work of God's kingdom furthered in the parish. Pray for discernment; that we may align our aims to God's purposes.

Bishop Andrew Yoshimichi Ohata, Tokyo (Japan)

2 November - Handforth

C: Steve Burmester, John Knowles. LM: Jim Lethbridge, Ian Pettigrew.

Bishop Todd McGregor, Toliara (Indian Ocean)

3 November - Heald Green

C: Vacant.

Please pray for the people of our parish and village (population 12,500 and growing). We ask for God's guidance during the vacancy and encouragement for the Church Council members. We give thanks for the continuing children's and family work with Messy Church and Sunday School and the local Youth project.

Bishop Bernard Oringa Balmoi, Torit; Bishop Isaac Deu Chon, Torit – Kapoeta Area; Bishop Martin Abuni, Torit – Magwi Area (Loryko, Sudan)

4 November - Poynton

C: Rob McLaren, Andy Livingston, Lesley Cummins, Christine Buckley. LM: David Alcraft, Beth Whaites, David Coleman, Les Hutchinson, David Capener.

Archbishop Colin Robert Johnson, Toronto; vacant, suffragan Bishop of Toronto – Trent Durham; Bishop Maurice Philip Poole, Toronto - Credit Valley; Bishop Patrick Tin-Sik Yu, Toronto – York – Scarborough; Bishop Peter Fenty, Toronto – York – Simcoe (Ontario, Canada)

5 November - Coaches and Consultants

Fourth before Advent

Consultancy for Mission & Ministry



Let's pray for coaches and consultants.

These are people who have become wise and have stored knowledge and experience which they put at the disposal of others. Their intent is to help and they make a difference to our lives particularly when we are searching for direction. They help us create possibilities for ourselves.

Peter Senge, in 'The Fifth Discipline', writes:

'People mostly see reality as a series of crises, pressures, problems to be reacted to: a set of limitations. Artists, on the other hand, see their paint, clay or cloth as a material with potential: although they are limited in what they create by the properties of the material, and have to work at it to get the effect they want, they are creating, not reacting.'

Coaches, consultants and spiritual guides have often travelled this road before us. Their artistry enables us 'to see [our] reality as something [we] can work with creatively'.

Some coaches and consultants are badged with qualifications but they are outnumbered by the many who are salt of the earth and worldly wise, who generate hope, build resilience and help us design processes of change.

Pray for consultants and coaches, including those in our churches whose profession it is. Give thanks for their wisdom and what they offer in ministry and mission.

Bishop Saw Wilme, Toungoo (Myanmar)

6 November - Woodford

C: David Russell. LM: Richard Cussons, Malcolm Evans, Joanne Rodman. At Christ Church, we give thanks that our new Good Book Groups (which complement our regular Christianity Explored course) are going well, and that our new 4pm Sunday service is getting well established. Over the next decade we are expecting a large number of houses to be built in Woodford. Please pray that we would be able to reach out to people moving in with the good news about Jesus as we seek to fulfil our mission statement: 'Seeking to know Christ better and make Christ better known.'

Bishop Gnanamuthu Paul Vasanthakumar, Trichy-Tanjore (South India)

7 November - Malpas Deanery

Bishop Claude Berkley, Trinidad & Tobago (West Indies)

8 November - Aldford

C: Julian Beauchamp. LM: Kath Wentel.

Bishop Donald Spargo Allister, Peterborough; Bishop John Holbrook, Peterborough – Brixworth (Canterbury, England)

Vacant, Truro; Bishop Christopher David Goldsmith, Truro – St Germans (Canterbury, England)

9 November - Bickerton

C: Ian Davenport.

Bickerton C of E School.

Bishop Patrick William Rooke, Tuam; Killala & Achonry (Armagh, Ireland)

10 November - Bickley

C: Richard Diggle.

Bishop Ezekiel Diing, Twik East (Upper Nile, Sudan)

11 November - Bruera

C: Julian Beauchamp. LM: Kath Wentell.

Saighton C of E School.

Bishop Chjioke Augustine Aneke, Udi (Enugu, Nigeria)

12 November - Remembrance Sunday

Third before Advent

One local insight into World War I: From early in 1916 Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig intended to break out of Ypres and drive towards the coast to destroy the submarine bases at Ostend and Zeebrugge. This attack, which began on the 31st July 1917, is known officially as the Third Battle of Ypres, but locally it is known as 'Stockport's Darkest Day'.



The 6th Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment, drawn mainly from Stockport, but with men from across Cheshire, Wirral and High Peak, were intended to overlap the leading troops. At 1am, 20 officers and 600 'other ranks' of the Cheshire's assembled with similar numbers of the Black Watch and Hampshire Regiments. At 3.50am the leading battalions set off for the village of St Julien, about a mile away. The Battalion's history records, 'On arrival at the Boche front line, the casualties had been fairly heavy, but the advance was maintained. The Steenbeck was crossed at 10am and the Battalion was re-organised for the final objective, intermittent fire being maintained whilst this was going on.'

The final objective was taken at 11.05, as scheduled. However, the cost in dead and wounded was terrible: there were only 2 officers and 57 Cheshire's left, and even fewer of the other regiments. Amongst the 6th Battalion's 118 dead were at least 46 local men, only four of whom have known graves. Another six local men died of their wounds in the weeks afterwards.

On the Sunday nearest 31st July, the Cheshire Regiment Association (CRA) commemorates their fallen comrades at St George's Church in Stockport. In this anniversary year the CRA went to Belgium together with Revd Canon Elaine Chegwin Hall, Vicar of St George's. The Cheshire's decision was that they would continue the commemoration for 100 years, so this year's gatherings are the last.

Pray for all whose lives continue to be blighted by war.

Bishop Cyril Odutemu, Ughelli (Bendel, Nigeria)

13 November - See of Chester

Peter Forster consecrated Bishop of Chester on this day in 1996. Offer thanks and pray for Bishop Peter's continuing ministry amongst us.

Bishop Mazwi Tisani, Ukhahlamba (Southern Africa)

14 November - Bunbury

C: Tim Hayward, Vicky Barrett. LM: Amber Middlemiss, Kathy Collinge, Pat Edgley, Eric Wallington, Tom Crotty, Michael Verity, Peter Collinge, Joy Parker.

Bunbury C of E School.

Bishop Samuel Kelechi Eze, Ukwu; Archbishop Ikechi Nwachukwu Nwosu, Umuahia (Aba, Nigeria)

15 November - Burwardsley

C: Lameck Mutete.

Bishop Mlibo Ngewu, Umzimvubu (Southern Africa)

16 November - Coddington

C: David Scurr. LM: Steve Peart, Raymond Moulton.

Pray for our church school, its staff, governors and the children in the lead up to Advent. Pray that all who come to our messy church may be blessed. Clutton C of E School.

Bishop Brighton Vitta Malasa, Upper Shire (Central Africa)

17 November - Farndon

C: David Scurr. LM: Steve Peart, Raymond Moulton.

Pray for all those involved with our third Christmas Tree Festival and for opportunities to share the good news of the gospel.

Bishop Michael Pollesei; Suffragan Bishop of Uruguay, Bishop Gilberto Obdulio Porcal Martínez; Uruguay (South America)

Bishop Peter John Henry Bartlett; Bishop Andrés Rodríguez Erben, Paraguay (South America)

18 November - Handley

C: Lameck Mutete. LM: Andy Morris.

Bishop Andrew Waldo, Upper South Carolina (IV, The Episcopal Church)

Bishop Scott Hayashi, Utah (VIII, The Episcopal Church, USA)

19 November - The Persecuted Church

Second before Advent



Open Doors has launched a global, seven-year campaign to mobilise Christians around the world to bring hope to the Middle East.

Syria and Iraq are in crisis. War and Islamic extremism have caused millions to flee, while millions of others are displaced within the region, struggling to survive, often too poor or unwell to leave.

Christians face the added threat of being targeted by Islamic extremists, who are determined to eradicate the church from the Middle East. And yet, many of our brothers and sisters are choosing to stay and serve their communities. They believe they have a vital role to play in rebuilding their nations. The global church cannot stand by and let the church in the Middle East be destroyed or forgotten. They are our brothers and sisters. If we don't help them, who will?

On the third Sunday in November, Christians around the world will unite in prayer for the persecuted church. If you would like someone to come and tell the story of amazing faith under fire please contact Trevor Green (trevlaine10@aol.co.uk)

Pray for Christians in the Middle East.

Bishop Prince Asukwo Antai, Uyo (Niger Delta, Nigeria)

20 November - Hargrave

C: Christopher Deakin.
Huxley C of E School.

Bishop James Ligo, Vanuatu (Melanesia)

21 November - Malpas and Threapwood

C: Ian Davenport.

Bishop A Rajavelu, Vellore (South India)

22 November - Marbury

C: Veronica Green. LM: Jane Lunt, Diana Thomas.

Please pray for a new focus on our mission both within the community and beyond. That through the grace and leadership of the Holy Spirit a new sense of 'giving' would permeate our thinking and our direction.

Bishop Orlando Guerrero, Venezuela (XI, The Episcopal Church, USA)

23 November - Shocklach

C: Jane Stephenson. LM: Chris Gilbert.
Shocklach Oviatt C of E School.

Bishop Thomas Ely, Vermont (I, The Episcopal Church, USA)

24 November - Tarporley

C: Georgina Watmore.

We ask for your prayers for all three of our churches, St Helen, St Thomas and St John and the Holy Cross that we would see a deepening in discipleship and a growth in numbers and joy.

Utkinton St Paul's C of E School. Tarporley C of E School.

Bishop Ambrose Gumbs, Virgin Islands (II, The Episcopal Church, USA)

25 November - Tattenhall

C: Lameck Mutete. LM: Andy Morris.

Bishop Shannon Johnston, Virginia; Bishop Susan Ellyn Goff, Suffragan Bishop of Virginia; Bishop Willam Michie Klusmeyer, West Virginia (III, The Episcopal Church, USA)

26 November - The Reign of Christ

Christ the King (Next before Advent)

The Sunday before Advent is the Feast of Christ the King. This is a time to focus on our desire as Christians that, as Jesus taught us to pray, God's kingdom should come on earth as it is in heaven. You might remember from earlier this



year that between Ascension Day and Pentecost, our Archbishops called the church to pray 'Thy Kingdom Come'. This was taken up enthusiastically across the diocese and culminated in a great service at the cathedral. But we need to keep on praying that prayer each day, praying that God's kingdom will indeed come and that Jesus will indeed be acknowledged as Lord.

St Andrew is often thought of as the first missionary – he brought his brother Peter to Jesus (John 1:42). Each year, on 29 November, the eve of St Andrew's Day, the church has started to observe a day of intercession and thanksgiving for the missionary work of the church worldwide. Why not make the worldwide task of mission a particular focus of your prayer this Wednesday? Pray that our Christian sisters and brothers right across the world will be encouraged and strengthened to witness for Christ the King.

Mike Gilbertson, Archdeacon of Chester

Bishop Saman Farajalla Mahdi, Wad Medani (Northern, Sudan)

27 November - Tilstone Fearnall

C: Tim Hayward.

Bishop Andrew Hedge, Waiapu; Archbishop Philip Richardson, Waikato & Taranaki; Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley, Waikato (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia)

28 November - Tilston

C: Jane Stephenson. LM: Trisha Swift. Chris Gilbert.
Tilston C of E School.

Bishop John Parkes, Wangaratta (Victoria, Australia)

29 November - Tushingham

C: Veronica Green.

Please pray that our church family would be strengthened through our community so that we can serve them in the way God is leading us to. Pray for the children and staff and governors of our church school and for the Golden Thread of God's love which binds us all together.

Tushingham-with-Grindley C of E School.

Bishop Christian Esezi Ideh, Warri (Bendel, Nigeria)

30 November - Waverton

St Andrew

C: Julian Beauchamp. LM: Kath Wentel, June Hargreaves.

Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde, Washington (Ill, The Episcopal Church, USA)

1 December - Whitewell

C: Veronica Green.

Please pray for our vision as a missionary church within our community, our wedding ministry, and beyond ... that as small as we are Christ would use us to bless many in His name.

Borderbrook Anglican School.

Bishop Moses Deng Bol, Wau (Bahr El Ghazal, Sudan)

2 December - Knutsford Deanery

Bishop Justin Duckworth; Bishop Eleanor Sanderson, Assistant Bishop, Wellington (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia)

3 December - Forward Looking

Advent Sunday

To Tesco and John Lewis, and Waitrose and Asda, and Aldi and Lidl it's already Christmas. The trees are out, the puddings are cooked, the crackers are different again and at least one supermarket now employs a professional Christmas tree light untangler.



Isaiah, looking around at his world, uttered the profound and resonant prayer 'Oh that you would tear open the heavens and come down'. A prayer for a decisive intervention in human history. That is what we look toward in Advent, not the first coming of God's Messiah, but the second.

Despite the image of darkness and destruction portrayed at the start of today's Gospel reading, looking forward goes beyond. Beyond the darkness to a time when the Son of Man will come in glory. A time Paul tells us to look to with eagerness.

Toward the end of what has been a difficult year the Church has hope to offer those around. God has come down and does come down and will come down.

While advertisers seek to focus our minds on Christmas festivities, let us not forget that this is Advent, the time when we look forward not to the coming of a baby, but the coming of God in glory.

Liz Shercliff, Director of Studies for Readers

Pray for 'the last things' to have a proper place in our worship.

Bishop Henry Katumba-Tamale, West Buganda (Uganda)

4 December - Alderley

C: Jon Hale.

Archbishop Ng Moon Hing, Archbishop of South East Asia & Bishop of West Malaysia; Bishop Charles Samuel, Assistant Bishop, Bishop Jayson Selvaraj, Assistant Bishop, West Malaysia (South East Asia)

5 December - Chelford

C: Gerri Tetzlaff, Fiona Robinson.

Pray for those coping with the loss of Chelford Market and for the opportunities that new housing and new families will bring to the church and church school.

Chelford C of E School.

Bishop Nicholas Baines; Bishop Toby Howarth, Leeds; Bishop Jonathan Gibbs, Area Bishop of Huddersfield; Bishop Paul Slater, Area Bishop of Richmond, James Bell, Area Bishop of Ripon, Bishop Anthony Robinson, Area Bishop of Wakefield (York, England)

6 December - Alderley Edge

C: Robin Pye, Loveday Alexander. LM: Sue Mills.

Bishop Edafe Emamezi, Western Izon (Bendel, Nigeria)

7 December - High Legh

C: Philip Robinson, Trish Cope, Patricia Robinson. LM: Margaret Kitchen, Chris Stanisstreet.

Please pray for the team who are preparing and leading our Storytelling Service. Please pray that we will find ways to build relationships with and between families so that they will become part of our family in Christ.

Bishop Douglas Fisher, Western Massachusetts (I, The Episcopal Church, USA)

8 December - Knutsford St Cross

C: Paul Deakin. LM: Mary Daw.

Pray that the church continues to see growth and can discern new ways to draw others in to the fire of God's love.

Bishop Whyne Houglund, Western Michigan (V, The Episcopal Church, USA)

9 December - Knutsford St John the Baptist

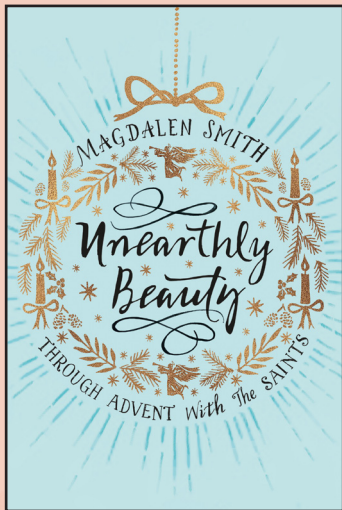
C: Nigel Atkinson, Dan Young. LM: Thain Flowers

Bishop Percy David Coffin, Western Newfoundland (Canada, Canada)

10 December - Advent Themes

Second of Advent

Traditionally the Advent season is one of fasting before the feast and often a chance for churches to study and pray more to anticipate the enormous event of Christ being born into the world. Many of us will have seen the film *Lady in the Van*, which is the true story of Miss Shepherd, an eccentric and obstreperous bag-lady who the playwright Alan Bennet offered hospitality to for 15 years as he allowed her to park her van, which was her home, on his driveway. Portrayed comically as well as tragically, Miss Shepherd proved initially to be an unexpected arrival in Bennet's life. Reflecting on the experience he said he had learnt so much about the power of hospitality through it.



Unexpected arrival, homelessness and hospitality are themes at the heart of the Christmas story as God comes again through the incarnation. This year *Unearthly Beauty: Through Advent and Christmas with the Saints* explores some of the saints that we remember in the lectionary for December as well as the more familiar characters from the Christmas story itself and connects them with the contemporary experience of life and faith.

Magdalen Smith, Diocesan Director of Ordinands
Pray for an appropriate keeping of Advent.

Bishop José Antonio McLoughlin, Western North Carolina (IV, The Episcopal Church, USA)

11 December - Lindow

C: Simon Gales. LM: Gordon Smith, Gareth Crispin.

Pray for Nativity from Scratch, to be prepared today and presented on Sunday morning, with an all-age talk, and many visitors.

Bishop Abraham Ackah, Wiawso (Ghana, West Africa)

12 December - Lower Peover

C: Jane Lloyd. LM: Ann Barlow.

Lower Peover C of E School.

Bishop John Stead, Willochra (South Australia, Australia)

13 December - Marthall

C: Gerri Tetzlaff, Fiona Robinson.

Pray that community life would continue to flourish and that the church would be central to that life.

Bishop Calvert Friday, Windward Islands (West Indies)

14 December - Mobberley

C: Ian Blay. LM: Jean Underhill, John Grainger.

Mobberley C of E School.

Bishop Matthew Taban Peter Wondurba (Loryko, Sudan)

15 December - Over Peover

C: Jane Lloyd. LM: Brian Haslam, Helen Oldham.

*Bishop John Inge, Worcester; Bishop Graham Usher, Worcester – Dudley;
(Canterbury, England)*

*Bishop Tim Dakin, Winchester; Bishop David Grant Williams, Winchester
– Basingstoke; Bishop Jonathan Frost, Winchester – Southampton
(Canterbury, England)*

16 December - Over Tabley

C: Philip Robinson, Trish Cope, Patricia Robinson.

Please pray that God will guide us as we explore the provision of toilet/kitchen facilities and extra space for community and missional activities.

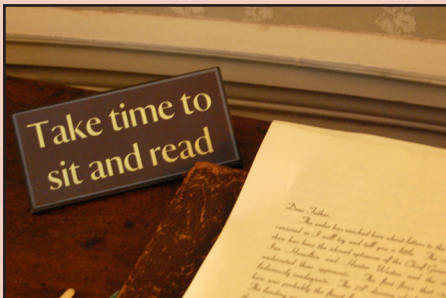
Bishop Ali Buba Lamido, Wusasa (Kaduna, Nigeria)

17 December - Making it Personal

Third of Advent

'Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear' (Matthew 24:35, NLT).

Words, words, words. You're reading them now. We'll think and speak thousands of them by the end of the day. Words matter – more than we often realise. It is by His word that God created



and sustains this world. It is because of His spoken word, His covenant promise, that we stand secure. It is by His word, as Jesus did, we can have victory in the spiritual battle of life. And ultimately we will be held accountable for all our words spoken, whispered and thought by our Creator.

I would like to encourage us to take God seriously at His word – to know His word more, to stand on its truth and promises, to obey it, and to speak it over our situations in prayer. Nothing is more powerful.

Emily Allen, Church Building Development Officer

Pray for mutual encouragement in our commitment to the Word.

Bishop John Smylie, Wyoming (VI, The Episcopal Church, USA)

18 December - Rostherne with Bollington

C: Philip Robinson, Trish Cope, Patricia Robinson.

We praise God for the growth of our Storytelling Service at St Mary's, and that the faculties to allow toilets and desperately needed extra space will soon be granted. We praise God that the ceiling repairs at Holy Trinity have been completed, and for the generosity of those who contributed to the cost.

Little Bollington C of E School.

Bishop Peter Munde Yacoub, Yambio (Minye, Sudan)

19 December - Toft

C: Nigel Atkinson. LM: Thain Flowers.

Archbishop Stephen Than Myint Oo, Archbishop of Myanmar and Bishop of Yangon; Bishop Samuel Htang Oak, Assistant Bishop of Yangon (Myanmar)

20 December - Wilmslow

C: Paul Smith, Magdalen Smith, Roger Yates, Sandi Fisher. LM: Sally Mullock, Don Hood, Jack Luxton, Christina Theobald.

Pray for the success of our new Mustard Seed Café for children and young families.

St Anne's Fulshaw C of E School.

Bishop Hilary Luate Adeba, Yei (Loryko, Sudan)

21 December - Birtles

C: Jon Hale.

Bishop Michael Adebayo Oluwarohunbi, Yewa (form. Egbado) – (Lagos, Nigeria)

22 December - Middlewich Deanery

Father God, we thank you for the churches and congregations of the Middlewich Deanery. Help us all to shine with the light of the new born King this Christmas time. May our witness and our worship share your love with our communities.

Bishop David Akau, Yirol; Bishop Isaac Nyaryiel Aleth, Yirol – Aluakluak Area; Bishop Paul Tokmach Lual, Yirol – Nyang Area (Bahr El Ghazal, Sudan)

23 December - Byley-cum-Lees

C: Simon Drew, Lorraine Reed, Thia Hughes, Liz Woode. LM: Steve Broadfoot, Christine Hamill-Stewart, Tony Woode, Jacqui Briscoe.

Lord God, strengthen and bless the congregation at St John's Church, Byley, that they may continue to be a witness for you to their community through the changing seasons of the year.

Bishop Laurence Yutaka Minabe, Yokohama (Japan)



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Chester



Bible