

PRAY WITH THE WORLD CHURCH

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS FROM
THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

6 February – 14 May 2022

USPG[†] PARTNERS IN
GLOBAL MISSION

USPG is the Anglican mission agency that partners churches and communities worldwide in God's mission to enliven faith, strengthen relationships, unlock potential and champion justice. Founded in 1701.

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LIVING STONES, LIVING HOPE

Greetings from USPG: partners in global mission, and welcome to 'Praying with the World Church', as we are invited to pray through Lent and Eastertide with partners across the Anglican Communion.

Every year for Lent USPG provides a study course, suitable for small group, whole church or individual study. This year our text is from 1 Peter 2, 'Living Stones, Living Hope'. 1 Peter is the text of the Bible study for the Lambeth Conference in July this year: so, in basing our study on this text we are in solidarity with our sister and brother bishops preparing for this important meeting in the life of our communion.

The metaphor of the Christian community in 1 Peter 2 as living stones is rich and evocative. We, the Church, are the living stones, and we are called to bring living hope in our diverse situations, though faith in the one who is the cornerstone of our faith, Jesus Christ. In each context this will be lived out differently, and will be underpinned by a range of theologies, yet our bedrock in Christ remains our constant. 'Living Stones, Living Hope' explores this from the perspective of five partner churches around the world. May I invite you to use this course, and if you are able, to join with us in studying it together as a webinar series: details at www.uspg.org.uk/lent

Thank you for joining us in prayer, as we, living stones, bring living hope to the people God has called us to serve.

*The Rev'd Canon Richard Bartlett,
Director of Mission Engagement, USPG*

6 FEBRUARY – 12 FEBRUARY

THE MARTYRS OF JAPAN

Since 1959, the Nippon Sei Ko Kai, the Anglican Church in Japan, have celebrated the festival of the Martyrs of Japan as a commemoration of all those who have given their lives for the Christian faith in Japan.

Christianity was introduced to Japan by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries in the 16th Century. In 1587, Christianity was outlawed and Christians were persecuted. The first fatalities of this persecution were 26 Christians, killed in 1597: six European Franciscan missionaries, three Japanese Jesuits and 17 Japanese laity, three of whom were young boys.

Persecution subsided for a time, but in 1613 it increased and by 1630 what was left of Christianity in Japan had been driven underground. The faith was preserved due to the efforts of the Kirishitan (Christian) community, who were without the support of clergy until missionaries returned in the 19th Century.

Today the Nippon Sei Ko Kai is made up of nearly 300 churches consisting of roughly 28,000 members. We pray for Japanese Christians who continue to devote their lives to the faith today and for the leadership and laity of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai.

Sunday 6 February:

King of Kings,

May you guide us in our calling.

Stir us to go where you send us,

With hope and faith in our hearts.

Monday 7 February: Let us pray for the Nippon Sei Ko Kai, the Anglican Church in Japan.

Tuesday 8 February: We pray for the Japanese Anglican Church (UK), based at St Martin's in West Acton, London.

Wednesday 9 February: Let us pray for all the young people in the Nippon Sei Ko Kai, that they might use their energy and enthusiasm to revitalize the church as it looks to the future.

Thursday 10 February: We give thanks for the martyrs who gave their lives for their faith. May we echo their conviction and courage.

Friday 11 February: Let us give thanks for the people and culture of Japan, with today being the country's National Foundation Day.

Saturday 12 February: We pray for peace in Japan, across Asia and around the world.

13 FEBRUARY – 19 FEBRUARY

COMMUNITY OF CARE

Dr Jo Sadgrove, USPG's Research and Learning Advisor

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, USPG has been undertaking research analysing pastoral care in the letters of its early archives. In seeking to understand our founder Thomas Bray's innovative vision, we consider the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in the early 1700s as a global community of care. This community of care was not bound by territory or geography but extended across cultures and continents.

Questions about how we care in the absence of face-to-face contact could not have become more urgent than they have in the context of Covid 19. Technologies have changed dramatically – messages of care and support once communicated through the letters we find in the archive are now sent around the Anglican Communion via online technologies. Yet the principal question, 'how do we care for and minister to people whom we cannot be physically close to?', remains a fundamental concern. USPG continues to operate within the tradition of remote Christian caregiving that it began with.

Understanding our history not only throws up profound challenges, but it also reassures us that God's mission - to care for those around the world - is as relevant today as it has always been.

Sunday 13 February:

**Redeemer God,
May we share your blessings
With the marginalised,
The disenfranchised and the oppressed.**

Monday 14 February: We pray for carers, working tirelessly to help vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

Tuesday 15 February (USPG Founder's Day): Let us pray for USPG, our overseas partners and our supporters in Britain and Ireland. May we continue to work together to spread the Gospel.

Wednesday 16 February: We pray for the people who had to shield during the Covid-19 pandemic. May we listen to them as we try to build a more inclusive society post-pandemic.

Thursday 17 February (Janani Luwum): Today we remember the life of Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, who bravely spoke truth to power and was killed for doing so.

Friday 18 February: We give thanks for those throughout the history of the Church who have stood up to discrimination and injustice. May we be inspired by their actions.

Saturday 19 February: Let us give thanks for the work of researchers and archivists, who help us to discover more about the past and therefore more about ourselves.

20 FEBRUARY – 26 FEBRUARY

CHANGING THE STORY

Maranda St John Nicolle, Director of Christian Concern for One World

Every item that we eat, drink, wear, or use in our daily activity has people behind it. If the glass of orange juice and cup of tea that you pour for your breakfast, the jam you spread on your toast, the shirt and jumper you grab from the wardrobe, your favourite ring, and the flowers you bring a friend could tell their producers' story, what would they say? Might it be a story of men and women working for low pay in unsafe fields, mines or factories, without the right to demand more? Or of men and women working together under often difficult circumstances to craft a new kind of trade, where people have the right to organise themselves, working conditions are safer, individuals and communities have money that enables a dignified life, and nature's gifts are honoured and tended?

We are part of this story, linked to our global neighbours by our choices. Buying products that are certified Fairtrade or made by members of the World Fair Trade Organization and campaigning for rules and practices of trade that raise standards globally are ways of ensuring that it's a more positive story which reflects the command to love our neighbours.

Sunday 20 February

(Second Sunday before Lent, World Day of Social Justice):

Creator God,

You fill us with the breath of life.

May we use our lives for your purpose,

Loving others and loving you.

Monday 21 February: Let us pray for all those who are working to achieve social justice. May we all try to be just and merciful in our everyday life.

Tuesday 22 February: Let us pray for a more equal world, where important decisions involve the input of people from around the globe.

Wednesday 23 February: We pray for a fairer trading system worldwide. Let us move from a system of exploitation to a model of partnership.

Thursday 24 February: Let us pray for Christian campaign groups such as Christian Concern for One World, which advocates fair trade, supporting refugees and caring for creation.

Friday 25 February: Let us pray for children, who are the present and future of the Church. May we treat children with respect, care and consideration.

Saturday 26 February: Lord, we pray for hope. May we be hopeful for the future and put our hope into action by campaigning on global issues.

27 FEBRUARY – 5 MARCH

LENT APPEAL

Janine Goddard, USPG's Individual Giving and Church Campaigns Manager

Join USPG this Lent and help us raise funds for our Living Hope appeal, supporting our global Church partners and their justice programmes. The funds raised from this appeal will support the following initiatives:

- The Zambia Anglican Council's Transformative Gender Justice Programme, which raises awareness of gender issues and provides support, counselling, and skills to those who have experienced gender-based violence.
- The Anglican Episcopal Church set up the Casa Noeli dos Santos women's refuge in response to increasing levels of domestic violence in the country. The refuge provides a safe haven for women and children experiencing domestic violence and enables them to access counselling, legal services and employment opportunities to establish independent lives.
- The Church of North India works with people from the Dalit and Adivasi communities who are caught up in the cycle of debt slavery and poverty. They encourage women to join self-help groups and set up businesses to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

This Lent we pray with our Church partners around the world and support their mission to bring justice to people in their local communities. Visit www.uspg.org.uk/lent to find out more and support our Lent Appeal, Living Hope.

Sunday 27 February (Sunday before Lent):

Lord Almighty,

Let us praise you in our thoughts,

Words and actions.

May we be living hope for those around us.

Monday 28 February: We pray for our partners in the Church of North India, the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil and the Anglican Church in Zambia.

Tuesday 1 March (St David's Day): Let us pray for the Church in Wales and give thanks for the life and legacy of St David.

Wednesday 2 March (Ash Wednesday): Let us pray, that as we journey this Lent towards Easter, we might share in the suffering and the joy of the living Christ with all whom we meet.

Thursday 3 March (World Wildlife Day): We pray for conservationists and animal rights activists working to protect wildlife in the UK and across the world.

Friday 4 March: Let us pray for victim and survivors of gender-based violence, and organisations around the world working to reduce gender-based violence.

Saturday 5 March: Lord, we pray for restorative and transformative justice around the world.

6 MARCH – 12 MARCH

TRANSFORMING LIVES

From the Zambia Anglican Council Outreach Programme (ZACOP)

Loveness Malenga is a 41-year-old mother of nine living in the Diocese of Luapula. Loveness was married to an abusive man, who physically abused both Loveness and her children.

Community leaders alerted ZACOP to the danger Loveness was in and recommended that Loveness be the first case of ZACOP's gender justice programme. ZACOP was able to make sure that Loveness was safe by linking her with their Diocesan Gender Coordinator and subsequently connected her to a trained counsellor. ZACOP provided Loveness with a grant, which she used to buy seeds in order to grow crops, which she then sold. The money Loveness has earned from selling crops has enabled her to buy food for her children and a bicycle so that her children can travel to school more easily. Loveness has also joined the local community savings groups, which has enabled her to save money.

Loveness says, 'Now I feel free to do what I have always wanted to do without fear. I want to give my children what their father could not – a safe, loving home. I hope to build a new house for my family using the savings I have made.'

Sunday 6 March (First Sunday in Lent):

Loving God,

Help us to reject earthly temptations

And focus on serving you.

May we trust in you

To provide for us.

Monday 7 March: Let us pray for the Anglican Church in Zambia and the Zambia Anglican Council.

Tuesday 8 March (International Women's Day): Today we pray for women across the world. May we celebrate women's achievements and continue to demand gender justice and equality.

Wednesday 9 March: We pray for the Diocese of Luapula in the Church of the Province of Central Africa.

Thursday 10 March: Let us pray for the Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola (the Anglican Church of Mozambique and Angola), which is the Anglican Communion's newest province.

Friday 11 March: We pray for the Zambia Anglican Council's Outreach Programmes. May they serve Christ by serving their communities.

Saturday 12 March: Let us pray for the Church of the Province of Central Africa and its churches across Botswana, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

13 MARCH – 19 MARCH

CROSSING BORDERS

Canon Patrick Comerford, Priest-in-Charge of the Rathkeale Group of parishes in the Church of Ireland

The Church of Ireland is quite different to many other member churches in the Anglican Communion: we are a cross-border church, geographically embracing both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Four of the eleven dioceses are cross-border dioceses. Half of the Church finds itself in the European Union; half the Church is within the United Kingdom. The social problems that have resulted are far more – and far deeper – than the variety of goods on supermarket shelves, or the different expectations in health care and education.

Apart from daily fears about the return of political and sectarian violence, all the churches on the island are facing challenging questions about cultural and political diversity and cross-community respect. Any cross-community conversation is in danger of losing trust and respect because of underlying fears of sectarianism, memories of violence, and agendas that remain without articulation.

An inspiring example of ongoing cross-community initiatives is a multi-church project in West Limerick to create understanding and a shared space for Travellers, who are a large ethnic minority in the area, and the people of Rathkeale, who fear losing their social, economic and cultural place in the town.

Sunday 13 March (Second Sunday of Lent):

‘The Lord is my light and my salvation,

Whom shall I fear?’

Let us find strength and courage

In our faith and in communities of faith.

Monday 14 March (Commonwealth Day): Let us pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ across the Commonwealth, a political association of 54 free and equal states across the world.

Tuesday 15 March: We pray for Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and other ecumenical initiatives working across the United Kingdom.

Wednesday 16 March: Let us pray for the people of Rathkeale and West Limerick, as they seek to welcome others into their community.

Thursday 17 March (St Patrick’s Day): Today we pray for the Church of Ireland and give thanks for the life and legacy of St Patrick.

Friday 18 March: Lord, may we remember that love has no boundaries. May we cross borders to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Saturday 19 March: Let us pray for continued peace across the island of Ireland. May cross-border peace initiatives be supported and embraced.

20 MARCH – 26 MARCH

LINGERING LEGACIES

*Monique Castle, Advisor to the Anglican Youth Fellowship,
Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands*

During this week we observe the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and for Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

Wrapped between the sentiments of Bob Marley’s song Buffalo Soldier (‘stolen from Africa, fighting on arrival, fighting for survival’), and the soulful lines of Nancy Morejón’s poem Mujer Negra (struggling with Blackness, womanhood and national identity) there are embedded memories of an ancestral journey. These are of a people moved from a place of relative comfort to a space of brutality and turmoil. The lingering legacies of the chains, the whip, and cries of suffering people are still very present in our society – they are present in the treatment, perception and stereotypes that black people experience as they try to rise from self-doubt to self-affirmation.

Let us remember those who fought and those who are still fighting to bring awareness of a distinctly black cultural and spiritual identity. As we stand united to promote the true sense of emancipation through our Lord Jesus Christ, we echo the prayers of three Jamaican children who stand in both the shade of history and the light of hope for a greater future.

Sunday 20 March (Third Sunday of Lent):

Welcoming God,

May we offer sanctuary to those in need.

Let no one be a stranger

In the house of the Lord.

Monday 21 March (International Day for the Elimination of Racial

Discrimination): Let us pray with Giselle Edwards, a 13-year-old from Jamaica, as she reflects on those who were enslaved and Black people who suffer from the effects of racial discrimination. Good God, open our eyes to see acts of injustice and people who are oppressed and stand up with them and for them.

Tuesday 22 March: Let us pray with Keila Comrie, an 8-year-old from Jamaica, as she celebrates the ending of slavery and prays that we may never allow ourselves to become slaves of impersonal things.

Wednesday 23 March: Let us pray for all organizations and people who fight against marginalization of the poor and underprivileged.

Thursday 24 March: Let us pray for the Church as a community as we preach and pray for the spreading of God's love and acceptance for all of us as His children.

Friday 25 March (The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary): Today we pray for the strength to follow the calling of the Lord. May we embrace unexpected events and trust in God.

Saturday 26 March: Let us pray with Michol Thompson, a 14-year-old from Jamaica, as he remembers all Black people who were taken from their homes and forced to work for strangers.

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GLOBAL MISSION

6 FEBRUARY – 14 MAY 2022



Japan:
The Martyrs of Japan

Korea: Light in the Darkness

Zambia:
Transforming Lives

27 MARCH – 2 APRIL

LET MY PEOPLE GO

From the Church of North India

There are approximately 230 million Dalits living in India. Considered outcasts, these communities suffer systematic exclusion and discrimination under the caste system, a system of social stratification.

The Church of North India is inspired by the recognition that the gospel of Christ is the gospel of liberation, which empowers the poor and the oppressed to liberate themselves from all forms of enslavement. Since 2015, CNI in co-operation with USPG has been working for the emancipation of Dalit communities. This initiative is called 'Let My People Go', inspired by Moses's demand for the liberation of the Israelites.

Through this programme, Dalit brothers and sisters are engaged in income-generation activities, as a result of which their children can afford education and proper nutrition that can help break the chains of casteism. Further, Dalit communities are provided easy access to clean drinking water and proper sanitation. This goes a long way in preventing sexual violence against women and young girls, who otherwise are likely to be attacked when they walk long distances to fetch water. Overall, the programme has been enabling congregations to engage in Jesus' mission to take up action in solidarity with oppressed communities.

Sunday 27 March (Fourth Sunday of Lent):

'Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven'.

Merciful God,

May we forgive those who have wronged us

And ask for forgiveness from those we have wronged.

Monday 28 March: Let us pray for Dalits across India. May they be empowered to break free from their caste.

Tuesday 29 March: We pray for the 26 dioceses of the Church of North India. May they work in harmony across states and regions.

Wednesday 30 March: Let us pray for the many schools, universities and hospitals administered by the Church of North India (CNI). May we look to the CNI's community work as an example to be followed.

Thursday 31 March: We pray for the Church of North India's Let My People Go programme. May the programme participants be liberated from discrimination and oppression.

Friday 1 April: Let us pray for those who are treated as outcasts and pariahs in society. May they be accepted by the wider community and know that they are accepted by God.

Saturday 2 April: We pray for the Church of South India and the role they play in making Indian society a fairer place.

3 APRIL – 9 APRIL

MEETING THE INVISIBLE

From the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana Do Brasil

Liberation Theology reminds us that God dwells among us and it is in this God-inhabited world that we experience God's grace and seek to fulfil God's plan of the kingdom. God called the Rev'd Elineide Ferreira Oliveira, a black woman and the daughter of a single mother, to be strong in the face of many inequalities that women experience in their daily journey.

She says, 'I am an Anglican priest in the Missionary District in the region of Rondônia, a part of the Amazon. I coordinate the diaconal service of receiving women from situations of violence into the Noeli dos Santos Support House. All of my experience, pastoral, spiritual and professional, has its roots in Liberation Theology. This theology informs what I believe and practice in the community: that we must go to meet those who are untouchable or invisible. Liberation Theology encourages us to leave our comfort zones and do all that we can. This method of doing theology continually provokes me not to conform but rather to seek ways to act for those in most need, and never to be a person who simply wants to be neutral in situations of injustice.'

Sunday 3 April (Fifth Sunday of Lent):

Eternal God,

In this changing world,

May we rely on you.

Let us not be afraid of the new,

But adapt to change.

Monday 4 April: Let us pray for the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil and its leading role as a beacon of inclusion and equality in Brazil.

Tuesday 5 April: We pray for the ministry of the Rev'd Elineide Ferreira Oliveira in the Missionary District of Rondônia.

Wednesday 6 April: Let us give thanks for the Noeli dos Santos Support House and the women it serves.

Thursday 7 April (World Health Day): Let us pray for healthcare workers, nurses and doctors. May they be guided by the Holy Spirit in all they say and do.

Friday 8 April: Let us pray for the Episcopal Church in America and their links across the world.

Saturday 9 April (Saints, Martyrs and Missionaries of South America): We give thanks for the saints, martyrs and missionaries of South America. Let us continue to work with partners in South America to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

10 APRIL – 16 APRIL

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

The Rev'd Anthony Gyu-Yong Shim, Diocese of Daejeon

St. Mark's in Yesan has a unique position in the history of the Anglican Church of Korea. When the Church was established in 1917, Yesan had no missionaries or priests. It was established by a lay evangelist, Man-Jun Kim, the younger brother of the first Korean priest in the Anglican Church of Korea.

In 2017, during my time at seminary, I came to St Mark's by chance. When I arrived, I found the door locked. Weeds were growing like a jungle. I looked around, turned around, but suddenly I was in tears. This church was nearing its 100th anniversary. Nobody came to celebrate. Nobody came to share the joy of the anniversary. I was heartbroken.

So, on 19th October 2017, we decided to celebrate evening prayers at St Mark's. With the Rt Rev'd Moses Yoo, the Bishop of the Diocese of Daejeon, we sat around the floor of the empty church, lit candles and prayed together. The bishop sent me as an evangelist to St. Mark's in February 2019.

I want St. Mark's to be a place that anyone can easily visit. It is a small church, but I hope it is a significant neighbour in the community.

Sunday 10 April (Palm Sunday):

Peaceful God,

May we be living stones.

Give us the courage to speak out,

Even when it is easier not to.

Monday 11 April: Let us pray for the Anglican Church of Korea and the dioceses of Seoul, Busan and Daejeon.

Tuesday 12 April (George Augustus Selwyn): Today we give thanks for the life of George Augustus Selwyn, the first Anglican Bishop of New Zealand, and pray for the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia.

Wednesday 13 April: We pray for the congregation at St Mark's in the Diocese of Daejeon and the ministry of the Rev'd Anthony Gyu-Yong Shim.

Thursday 14 April (Maundy Thursday): May we be humble in our attitude to each other and truly love one another.

Friday 15 April (Good Friday): Let us dwell with our Lord in the darkness of Good Friday, longing for Easter to arrive.

Saturday 16 April: Lord, may we be active members of the community and welcome the stranger into our churches.

17 APRIL – 23 APRIL

FROM DEATH TO RESURRECTION

The Rev'd Dr Rachel Mash, Coordinator of the Environmental Network of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa

What is the message of Easter for us when the future of Earth is under threat?

On Good Friday we feel the pain of suffering, cruelty and death – we lament the devastation of the Earth, the loss of two thirds of the world's species in a single generation, the dying of the oceans and the destruction of the rainforests. Teeming life has turned to barren death, millions are faced with hunger from drought, floods and sea levels rise.

Where then is our Easter hope? Jesus died to save the world, the 'cosmos', as the Bible tells us (John 3 :16). 'All the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe – people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the cross' (Col 1.19–20, The Message version).

Jesus died not only to reconcile us to God and to one another, but also to bring reconciliation between humans and the whole of Creation. Believing in the resurrection does not point us to another world, it gives us hope and inspiration to work for the redemption of this one.

Sunday 17 April (Easter Day):

Lord of All,

You defeated death so that we could live.

Guide us as we witness the power and

Glory of the Risen Christ.

Monday 18 April: We give thanks for opportunities to celebrate Easter with friends and family.

Tuesday 19 April: Let us pray for our brothers and sisters across the Anglican Communion as they celebrate Easter in their provinces, dioceses and churches.

Wednesday 20 April: We pray for the Anglican Church of Southern Africa and the Green Anglicans Network.

Thursday 21 April (Anselm of Canterbury): Let us give thanks for the life of St Anselm of Canterbury. May we pray for the Archbishop of Canterbury and Primates across the Anglican Communion.

Friday 22 April (International Earth Day): Today we pray for the Earth. May we work together to protect and sustain creation, rather than damage and destroy it.

Saturday 23 April (St George's Day): Let us pray for the Church of England and churches in Ethiopia and Georgia.

24 APRIL – 30 APRIL

LOGGING IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

Brother Christopher John SSF, Minister General of the Society of St Francis

Logging for export has been increasing in Solomon Islands since the 1980s and threatens the rich ecosystem of bush, river, lagoons and reefs.

Forests are damaged, as are rivers, drinking water supplies, gardens, and fishing and food gathering areas. Some overseas loggers commit sexual exploitation. Increased alcohol consumption further fuels gender-based violence. Logging takes people away from village life including church activities.

Last year came the chance for action. The Universal Periodic Review of Human Rights, a UN Human Rights Council programme, was to review the Solomons in 2021. We partnered with Franciscans International (our NGO at the UN), Dominican sisters and friars in the Solomons, and their NGO, Dominicans for Justice and Peace. We made a joint submission to the UN and lobbied diplomatic missions. A number of member states then included these issues as specific recommendations in their reports to the Solomons government.

In the end the Solomons accepted almost all the recommendations relating to logging issues.

This is a great achievement, but just a beginning. Implementation is the challenge! But we can be part of the solution, supporting monitoring and education, and keeping international eyes open to all that's happening.

Sunday 24 April (Second Sunday of Easter, International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace):

Holy Spirit,

Help us to navigate the future of the Church.

May we follow God's will

Rather than our own wants.

Monday 25 April (Mark the Evangelist): We give thanks for the life of St Mark the Evangelist. May we devote our lives to evangelism and witness.

Tuesday 26 April: Let us pray for peace, and for the diplomatic efforts of peacemakers and peacekeepers.

Wednesday 27 April: Let us give thanks for the Society of St Francis, Franciscans International and Dominicans for Justice and Peace.

Thursday 28 April: We pray for those working to prevent deforestation in the Solomon Islands.

Friday 29 April: Let us pray for efforts to prevent gender-based violence in the Solomon Islands.

Saturday 30 April: We give thanks for the work of the United Nations and pray for more urgent action on climate change and other important issue from the international community.

1 MAY – 7 MAY

TRUTH TELLERS

Steve Cox, Chair of Christians in the Media

Edmund Burke, the 18th Century Anglo-Irish statesman, was reported to have said; ‘There are Three Estates in Parliament; but, in the Reporters’ Gallery yonder, there sits a Fourth Estate more important far than they all.’

This respect for the media has been severely shaken in recent years. Yet, at its very best, the media continues to hold those in power to account, to call out injustice where it is seen, and unseen, and to be a voice to the voiceless.

It is crucial we support a free and independent press, while maintaining strong regulatory oversight. In a world of powerful, and quickly emerging, media platforms, Christians in Media will always be objective, and question where necessary, but not be afraid to highlight a media that brings us facts, information and truth.

As Christians, we pray for those in the media to uncover the beauty of hope, love and renewal that blossom in the debris of conflict, greed and exploitation. We pray that everyone in the media turn their weapons of word and image into ploughshares of peace and reconciliation.

We pray World Press Freedom Day continues to support the ‘Truth Tellers’ and uphold freedom of expression and information as a public good.

Sunday 1 May (Third Sunday of Easter):

Amazing God,

You reach the stubborn and the cynical.

Teach us to be empathetic and understanding

As we seek to spread the Word.

Monday 2 May: Let us pray for the work of Christians in the Media, a network which supports Christians who work in our media industries.

Tuesday 3 May (World Press Freedom Day): We pray for journalists and all who work in the media. May we work to protect press freedom across the world.

Wednesday 4 May: Lord, let us be truthful to ourselves and to others. May we embrace each other for our authentic selves.

Thursday 5 May (International Midwives Day): Let us pray for midwives, who do so much to ensure the safe arrival of new life into the world.

Friday 6 May: We pray for those who work to combat the spread of misinformation and debunk conspiracies. May they be supported in the valuable work they do.

Saturday 7 May: Let us give thanks for the media technologies which allow us to communicate with and listen to people from across the world church.

8 MAY – 14 MAY

CELEBRATION IN CASABLANCA

The Rt Rev'd Dr David Hamid, Suffragan Bishop in Europe

It is not very often in the Church of England that we have to expand a church building in order to accommodate a growing worshipping congregation. That is precisely what has happened in St John the Evangelist Church in Casablanca.

St John's has been home to Anglicans and other English-speaking Christians since 1906. In recent years the numbers of Christian migrants from all over the world has increased. In response, a plan was developed to build a community centre and extend the church building to almost double the capacity for attendance at services.

Among the growing sector of the congregation of St John's are Filipino migrants. This year, Father Virgilio Fernandez, a priest from the Iglesia Filipina Independiente who is serving here with the support of USPG, has been appointed as the locum priest in St John's to assist with the care for this community.

The dedication of the church extension was celebrated in September 2021. A civic ceremony welcomed political, diplomatic and ecumenical dignitaries and gave thanks to the collaboration from the Moroccan authorities. Celebrations continued with a Christian liturgy for the re-hallowing of the Church, the blessing of new stained-glass windows, baptisms and confirmations.

Sunday 8 May (Fourth Sunday of Easter):

Miraculous God,

You make the impossible possible.

May we continue to have hope in

You and in each other.

Monday 9 May: Let us pray for the Diocese in Europe and the many countries it serves.

Tuesday 10 May: We give thanks for the diversity of worship styles, contexts and traditions encompassed by Anglicanism.

Wednesday 11 May: Let us pray for inter-provincial relations across the Anglican Communion.

Thursday 12 May: We pray for initiatives such as the Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa, which seeks to build relationships between people of different faiths.

Friday 13 May: Let us pray for ecumenism and interfaith dialogue.

Saturday 14 May: We pray for the Iglesia Filipina Independiente and the people of the Philippines.

PRAYER DIARY

Thank you for praying with the World Church.

If you don't already receive the USPG prayer diary, we'd love for you to join with us in prayer.

Yes, I want to pray with the World Church.

Please send me USPG's supporter magazine and prayer diary.

Your details:

Title _____ First name _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Town/City _____ Post code _____

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Data protection

Keeping in touch

USPG would like very much to keep you updated on our work and that of our partner churches and communities worldwide. Managing your details well is important to us and we would like to contact you in ways that work for you.

Yes, I am happy to be contacted by email.

We may contact you by post and telephone. If you do not wish to hear from us or have a preferred contact method, simply get in touch with us at **info@uspg.org.uk**

When you give us your details, you'll be added to our secure database so we can communicate with you as you have indicated. You can read our full data privacy notice at **www.uspg.org.uk/privacy**

Please return to: **USPG, 5 Trinity Street, London SE1 1DB**

Call **020 7921 2200** or visit **www.uspg.org.uk**



LIVING HOPE LENT APPEAL 2022

Join USPG this Lent and help us raise funds for our Living Hope appeal, supporting our global Church partners and their justice programmes in Zambia, Brazil and North India.

Visit www.uspg.org.uk/lent to find out more and support our Lent Appeal, Living Hope.

www.uspg.org.uk/lent

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