

PRAY WITH THE WORLD CHURCH

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS FROM
THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

31 October – 5 February

USPG⁺ UNITED SOCIETY
PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

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PRAYER AND WITH-NESS

Praying with others has solidarity at its core. In this simple act of carrying others in our hearts we live a bit more into Christ's own prayer that we all may be one. In this intertwining of our own life of faith with the life of the faithful around the world we demonstrate what it means to be branches of the one vine, Jesus Christ, in whom our faith finds its source and sustenance. In prayer we learn to live in Christ and live from Christ.

Solidarity is also at the core of the time of Advent and Christmas, which this prayer diary covers. In Jesus' birth, God assumes the vulnerability of human flesh and becomes Emmanuel, which means "God is with us". In this prayer diary, we remember those who have let this story of God's 'with-ness' shape their own witness as they work towards healing, wholeness and hope amidst the challenges of HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence, religious and ethnic conflicts and climate change.

My prayer is that in these reflections and prayers we may find resources for our own journey of discipleship, that will strengthen us in our faith and sustain us in hope as we seek to follow the one who self-emptied himself in love.

The Rev'd Dr Peniel Rajkumar, Global Theologian, USPG

31 OCTOBER – 6 NOVEMBER

MAKING COP26 COUNT

Rachel Mander, Faith Outreach Officer at Hope for the Future

Across the next two weeks, world leaders meet in Glasgow to negotiate at COP26, the international climate change conference. There is a lot of expectation and anticipation for this conference. Countries update their climate commitments (nationally determined contributions, NDCs) only once every five years, so the outcomes of the conference will be closely scrutinised.

There is a particular need for leaders to agree to new funding. Presently, when countries suffer the effects of climate change, there is no internationally agreed mechanism for financial support. Countries are left to pay for the loss and damage themselves. If they can't pay, they take on further debt. With many of the most climate-vulnerable nations already in debt distress following the Covid-19 pandemic, this is both unsustainable and unjust.

Please pray that the UK government would use its role as host of this conference wisely. Pray also for the costs of climate change to be justly distributed, and for world leaders to rise to the moment in agreeing increased ambition in these negotiations.

Sunday 31st October (Fourth Sunday Before Advent, Start of COP26):

Heavenly Father,

May we love You with all of our hearts,

Souls and minds. Let us love each other And all of creation.

Monday 1st November (All Saints' Day): Let us give thanks for the lives and works of the saints and apostles. May we emulate the conviction of their beliefs and the righteousness of their actions.

Tuesday 2nd November (All Souls' Day): We pray for all those who have gone before us. May we cherish our memories of family and friends who are no longer with us.

Wednesday 3rd November: Lord, we pray for all those who have gathered at COP26 this month. May they make good decisions which centre the wellbeing of creation.

Thursday 4th November (Saints and Martyrs of the Anglican Communion): Let us pray for churches across the Anglican Communion, and all those who have given their lives in service to the spreading of the Gospel around the world.

Friday 5th November: We pray for the work of Hope for the Future and its relationship with USPG. May we continue to travel alongside each other in the pursuit of climate justice.

Saturday 6th November: Let us pray for governments around the world, facing difficult decisions in a time of crises. May You guide them to take the right actions and centre creation in their policies.

7 NOVEMBER – 13 NOVEMBER

PEACE BUNTING

Lisa Murphy from the Student Christian Movement

Every year the arms trade makes money from war. At the Student Christian Movement (SCM), we believe that this profiting from war and involvement in war itself is unacceptable.

As part of our Faith in Action project and our student-led Ploughshares campaign, we have used the idea of a ‘Peace Bunting’ as a form of craftivism. SCM members have been encouraged to think about what peace means to them, to think beyond the idea of the “absence of war” and to mindfully and prayerfully create a bunting triangle. This bunting will then go to protests as a physical symbol of SCM’s commitment to peace as well as a way for SCM members to be represented at protests even if they can’t attend in person.

This week where we mark Armistice Day, we must remember that there is no glory in war. There are no winners when it comes to war. And there is no peace that comes from war. So, let’s pray for the peacemakers. For those who put nonviolence into action. For those who strive to reconcile conflict and seek peace. Amen.

Sunday 7th November (Third Sunday Before Advent):

Calling God,

May we follow You

With the conviction of the disciples,

Spreading your message of love

Wherever we go.

Monday 8th November (Saints and Martyrs of England and Wales):

We give thanks for the saints and martyrs who did so much to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout England and Wales.

Tuesday 9th November: Let us pray for the World Student Christian Federation and the work it does to show university students the radical inclusivity of God's love.

Wednesday 10th November: We pray for university chaplains and the work they do to support and comfort students. May they in turn be supported to carry out this important work.

Thursday 11th November (Armistice Day): Today we remember all who have died or been injured in conflict. May we strive for a more peaceful world.

Friday 12th November: We pray for young adults in higher and further education. May they emerge from this difficult time as conscientious individuals confident in themselves and curious about the world.

Saturday 13th November: Let us pray for peacemakers around the world. May we seek mediation, reconciliation and friendship in all situations.

14 NOVEMBER – 20 NOVEMBER

TREASURE IN CLAY JARS

Nicola Elliot, Chaplain at St Hugh's High School in the Diocese of Jamaica and The Cayman Islands

“We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us”. (2 Corinthians 4:7)

There are approximately two hundred Anglican educational institutions in Jamaica including infant, primary and high schools. There is great potential for personal and social transformation when the Church connects with the school community and other stakeholders. The Anglican Church has the opportunity to be a healing presence in society through ministry within schools, as care is offered to staff, students and families.

As Lay Chaplain, I offer pastoral care to the school community. The priests I work with are extremely supportive, offering pastoral and liturgical guidance. They celebrate Holy Eucharist, visit school on special occasions and chair school boards. Together we influence the school's ethos and culture. Sacred spaces are created at school, such as our Prayer Room and Peace Garden. There is treasure in the clay jars of the laity: we partner with clergy to minister to our schools, supporting teachers and students.

**Sunday 14th November (Remembrance Sunday,
Second Sunday before Advent):**

Peaceful God,

May we take refuge in You.

Let us trust and care for each other,

Pursuing peace and justice

In place of war and conflict.

Monday 15th November: We pray for St Hugh's High School in the Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. May students and staff at the school feel transformed by God's love for them.

Tuesday 16th November (International Day of Tolerance): Let us pray for a more tolerant world, in which difference is celebrated and experience is valued.

Wednesday 17th November: We pray for the Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, their Sunday School ministry and their Chaplaincy programme.

Thursday 18th November: Let us pray for school chaplains across the Anglican Communion. May they continue to plant seeds of faith in the hearts of teachers and students.

Friday 19th November: Let us pray for the Church in the Province of the West Indies, comprised of eight dioceses across the Caribbean.

Saturday 20th November (World Children's Day): We pray for children around the world, growing up in a world defined by pandemics, climate change and injustice. May we listen to their needs and heed their advice.

21 NOVEMBER – 27 NOVEMBER

TRANSFORMING GENDER JUSTICE

Royter Chongo, National Gender Coordinator of the Zambia Anglican Council Outreach Program

In Zambia, the full extent of violence against women and children is hardly understood. It affects not only the direct and immediate victims of violence but also family members and friends. The visible consequences of such violence are physical injuries such as bone fractures and bruises. Marriage at a young age, teenage pregnancy and violence against women are quite common and women are more likely to contract HIV/AIDS than men.

The Transformative Gender Justice Programme is a 2-year intervention focused on reducing gender-based violence (GBV) in the Parish of Matero, in the Diocese of Lusaka. The Parish of Matero has an estimated population of 1,200 congregants, who we hope to reach during the implementation period of this initiative. The programme's broad aims are to increase awareness of gender-based violence, change attitudes towards gender-based violence and prevent further violence against women and girls from happening. We also hope to be able to empower GBV survivors by educating them about their legal rights and providing opportunities to learn and generate income.

By listening to and empowering survivors of domestic of gender-based violence, the Anglican Church of Zambia hopes to raise awareness of this issue.

Sunday 21st November (Christ the King):

“The Lord is King, he is robed in majesty”.

King of kings,

We wonder in Your majesty.

May we worship You

For evermore.

Monday 22nd November: Let us pray for the Zambia Anglican Council, who continue to pioneer gender justice efforts in Zambia.

Tuesday 23rd November: Lord, we pray for the work of the International Anglican Women’s Network. Bless them in all they do to represent women across the Anglican Communion.

Wednesday 24th November: We pray for the Parish of Matero and the Diocese of Lusaka as they implement this transformative gender justice programme.

Thursday 25th November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women): Let us pray for victims of gender-based violence, as they seek healing and justice. May we keep them in our prayers. Today also marks the start of the 16 Days Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, which we encourage you to get involved with.

Friday 26th November (Sojourner Truth): Today we remember the life of Sojourner Truth, abolitionist and women’s rights activist. May we centre justice in our daily lives.

Saturday 27th November: Let us pray for the Anglican Communion Gender Justice Network, which promotes gender equality across the Church.

28 NOVEMBER – 4 DECEMBER

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR

*The Rev'd Canon Peter Douglas Koon, Provincial Secretary General,
Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui*

Advent reminds us to be watchful for the coming of the Lord. When Jesus comes in his glory, he will judge us by seeing whether we 'did it unto one of these my brethren'. It seems, therefore, 'to love one's neighbour as oneself' is a way to be watchful. If a person loves their neighbour, they must attend to the neighbour's needs; otherwise, one's love for one's neighbour is but lip service.

The Covid-19 pandemic has intensified existing needs may intensify and brought new needs to light. Throughout her history, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui has discerned the society's changing needs and offered apposite services, especially in the fields of education and social welfare, to care for the people's body, mind, and spirit in the community she serves at different times. Undeniably Covid-19 has presented challenges to the Church's ministry, but it has also created opportunities, giving rise to services previously unimagined.

To his people Jesus has promised to be 'with you always, to the end of the age'. Before the Second Coming, it is for the Church, by her ministry and charitable services, to reveal Jesus' presence, 'whether the time is favourable or unfavourable'.

Sunday 28th November (First Sunday of Advent):

Christ Jesus,

In great humility,

You were born in human likeness.

Help us to humble ourselves

So that we may put others first.

Monday 29th November: Let us pray for the users of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui's social and educational services; may they, through the work of the Church, come to know and experience God's redemptive love for the humankind.

Tuesday 30th November (St Andrew, Communion Day of Prayer):

Today USPG is joining with mission agencies from across the Anglican Communion in a day of prayer. May we continue to work alongside each other in spreading the Gospel around the world.

Wednesday 1st December (World AIDS Day): We pray for the medical professionals and researchers combating diseases and guarding our health tirelessly.

Thursday 2nd December: We pray that the clergy of the Church may continue to be faithful servants of Christ.

Friday 3rd December (International Disabilities Day): Let us work towards a more accessible world, with inclusion and diversity at its core.

Saturday 4th December: We pray for those affected by the Covid-19 virus, that despite their circumstances they may remain steadfast in faith and hope.

5 DECEMBER – 11 DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

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

Our partner, the Diocese of Colombo in the Church of Ceylon, through their Plantation Community Development programme is improving wellbeing of the tea plantation community in Sri Lanka.

One of Sri Lanka's main products is tea and there are numerous tea plantations around the country. Many of the people who live and work in Sri Lanka's plantations have endured years of marginalisation, isolation and exclusion from the rest of Sri Lankan society which have led to their poor living conditions.

The Plantation Community Development programme provides education to children of tea plantation communities. This involves preschools, non-formal education classes, seminars for those taking the Grade 5 and scholarships for GSCE, A Level and University students. The programme also offers support to pregnant mothers and advocates for human rights of the tea plantation community.

Throughout Advent and Christmas 2021 we will be standing in solidarity with our partner, the Diocese of Colombo. Their vital work with women and children from the tea plantation communities is transforming lives and lifting people out of poverty. Join us in supporting Sri Lanka's most vulnerable communities by visiting www.uspg.org.uk/christmas

Sunday 5th December (Second Sunday of Advent):

**Righteous God,
May we overflow with love,
And know what is good.
Lead us down the straight path,
That we may find salvation.**

Monday 6th December: We pray for the Church of Ceylon, comprised of the Dioceses of Colombo and Kurunegala.

Tuesday 7th December: Let us pray for tea plantation workers across Asia and Africa, who often suffer from poor working conditions and meagre wages.

Wednesday 8th December: We celebrate the power of education. May children and adults alike be provided with opportunities to learn throughout their lives.

Thursday 9th December (Day of Commemoration of the Victims of Genocide): Today we remember those who lost their lives as a result of discrimination and persecution. We pray for a world in which no one is victimised because of their creed or colour.

Friday 10th December (Human Rights Day): Let us celebrate the fundamental rights we share with one another and safeguard the rights of our fellow human beings.

Saturday 11th December: We pray for those whose livelihoods depend on the land. May we have greater respect for creation and for agricultural workers.

PRAY WITH THE WORLD CHURCH



Jamaica:
Treasure in
Clay Jars

UK:
Making COP26 Count

Jerusalem:
Building Bridges

Zambia:
Transforming
Gender Justice

USPG⁺ PARTNERS IN
GLOBAL MISSION

31 OCTOBER 2021 – 5 FEBRUARY 2022



India:
A Lasting
Legacy

Sri Lanka:
Christmas
Appeal

Bangladesh: A United Church

Hong Kong:
Love Your
Neighbour

12 DECEMBER – 18 DECEMBER

WOMEN'S HELPLINE

The Delhi Brotherhood Society's (DBS) Women's Helpline Programme provides a listening ear to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and offers care and practical advice for what to do after being attacked. This often involves filing an incident report and pursuing legal action. The staff at the Women's Helpline are able to direct survivors to local police and other non-governmental organisations who are able to help them in this situation.

An integral part of the Women's Helpline Programme is the Women's Council, which coordinates mediation sessions between men and women, and educational, awareness-raising workshops for local communities. The Society also runs a Crisis Intervention Centre in collaboration with the Delhi Commission for Women and has the capacity to refer survivors to emergency accommodation and local hospitals.

The work of the Delhi Brotherhood Society's Women's Helpline Programme was somewhat disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, most of the initiative's work can still be carried out via phone calls and other forms of contactless communication; the usual face-to-face sessions with both volunteers and survivors are very limited. It has tentatively restarted, maintaining strict social distancing and safety rules.

Sunday 12th December (Third Sunday of Advent):

Gentle God,

We rejoice in You.

Let us strive for truth, honour,

And all that is praiseworthy.

May we find peace through prayer.

Monday 13th December: Let us give thanks for the Delhi Brotherhood Society, its Women's Helpline programme and the many other initiatives the Society coordinates across Delhi.

Tuesday 14th December: We pray for a world in which women and men are safe from violence and abuse.

Wednesday 15th December: Let us pray for the Church of North India, comprised of 27 dioceses across northern India.

Thursday 16th December: We pray for St Stephen's Hospital in Delhi, giving thanks for the care they have provided to Covid-19 patients over the last year.

Friday 17th December: Let us pray for greater hospitality across borders as the number of refugees from climate change-related disasters increases year on year.

Saturday 18th December (International Migrants Day): Let us remember the plight of migrants around the world. May we offer them hospitality and hope.

19 DECEMBER – 25 DECEMBER

LIVING WITH HIV

Linnet Musasa, HIV Stigma Reduction Officer for the Anglican Council of Zimbabwe

The Anglican Council of Zimbabwe is launching Phase Two of their HIV Stigma Reduction and Empowerment of People Living with HIV Programme. The second phase is focused on reaching new areas, namely: Mutoko in the Diocese of Harare, Silobela in the Diocese of Central Zimbabwe, and Tsholotsho in the Diocese of Matabeleland.

This programme involves extensive HIV testing and training members of the clergy to address the stigmatisation of people living with HIV in sermons and informal conversations. Programme participants have produced creative responses such as documentaries, posters, t-shirts and badges as ways to bring up this difficult subject within their communities.

Sarah*, one of the participants in the HIV Stigma Reduction programme, says: “The culture in our church is that, before marriage, people are tested for HIV. This is how we found out my husband-to-be was HIV positive. I asked God what to do and I decided that we should go ahead with the wedding. 20 years later, I am still HIV negative and we are a happy couple. When my husband disclosed his status to others, we faced stigma. With God’s help, we now have the strength to talk about HIV publicly”.

*This name has been changed

Sunday 19th December (Fourth Sunday of Advent):

**Almighty Lord,
You bless us with unexpected joys.
May we suspend our disbelief,
And listen to Your will.**

Monday 20th December (International Human Solidarity Day):

Today we think of our common humanity and stand in solidarity with marginalised people across the world.

Tuesday 21st December: Let us pray for everyone living with HIV/AIDS. May we help and support them rather than stigmatise them.

Wednesday 22nd December: We pray for the Anglican Council of Zimbabwe and the work they are doing to reduce stigma around HIV/AIDS.

Thursday 23rd December: We give thanks for the power of creativity to raise awareness of complex issues and break taboos.

Friday 24th December: Let us pray for the Church of the Province of Central Africa, comprised of dioceses across Botswana, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Saturday 25th December (Christmas Day): Today we give thanks for the birth of Jesus Christ. May the light of His love shine around the world, filling all with hope and wonder.

26 DECEMBER – 1 JANUARY

EVANGELISM THROUGH DISCIPLESHIP

The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean seeks to model evangelism through discipleship. This primarily involves evangelists going out into local communities and providing basic services for small groups of people. These services consist of songs and Bible readings but lack a liturgical component. Evangelists also hold services in local churches as there are very few ordained clergy in relation to the number of churches.

In 2019, the Diocese of Toliara started a training programme to teach the meaning and application of discipleship in local contexts. This programme is run by trained evangelists and members of clergy, seeking to equip church members to take on a more active role in worship. In the past, training within the Church has focused on the Eucharist as the central act of worship. Whilst we still recognise the significance of the Eucharist, the training provided by the Church is now more inclusive, encompassing a greater breadth of ministry and roles within the Church. This shift in thinking is a result of many lay people showing interest in active participation in church life while the number of ordained clergy in the area is declining.

Sunday 26th December (Christmas and New Year, St Stephen):

Gracious God,

Teach us to be compassionate,

Humble and meek.

May we strive to be Christlike in

All we do.

Monday 27th December (John the Apostle): Today we celebrate the feast of St John the Apostle and Evangelist. May we strive to be “pillars of the Church” as he was.

Tuesday 28th December (Holy Innocents): On this day, may we cherish our young people and provide them with the guidance and knowledge to navigate our complex and challenging world.

Wednesday 29th December: Let us pray for the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean, covering Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles.

Thursday 30th December: Lord, we pray for clergy around the world. We recognise the difficulties they have faced since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and the love they have shown to their parishioners throughout this challenging time.

Friday 31st December: We pray for the Diocese of Toliara as they seek to encourage active discipleship and equip lay people with the appropriate skills to serve the local communities.

Saturday 1st January (Naming of Jesus): Heavenly Father, we thank You for coming into the world through Jesus. May we follow Your calling and know we are loved.

2 JANUARY – 8 JANUARY

A LASTING LEGACY

*The Rev'd Dr Praveen P.S. Perumalla, Church of South India -
Ecumenical Mission in Solidarity Liaison Officer*

2022 is the Platinum Jubilee Year of the Church of South India (CSI), a united and uniting Church. It is therefore befitting to reflect on the legacy of the Rt Rev'd Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, who became the first Indian Bishop in the Anglican Communion when he served as Bishop of the Diocese of Dornakal from 1912 to 1945. Bishop Azariah played a leading role in the church unity negotiations that led to the unification of the Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches in the historic creation of the CSI in 1947.

At the Edinburgh Missionary Conference in 1910, Bishop Azariah appealed for much deeper cooperation between foreign missionaries and Indian Christians, in line with the aspirations of Indian independence. The theological meaning of the Indian Church is rooted in acknowledgement of the Gospel values and not antagonism. Bishop Azariah believed that to make a significant impact, a genuinely Indian Church must emerge; this meant moving away from dependence on foreign missionaries and towards a partnership model. Bishop Azariah also founded the National Missionary Society of India. His legacy is reflected in the CSI's vision of building communities of Christ by overcoming borders.

Sunday 2nd January (Second Sunday of Christmas, Samuel Azariah):

Loving Father,
Help us to weather earthly rejection,
And accept that we are
Accepted by You.
Strengthen our convictions,
Inspire hope in us.

Monday 3rd January: Let us pray for the Church of South India, a thriving example of a united and uniting Church.

Tuesday 4th January: Lord, we pray for peace, happiness and stability for the people of India.

Wednesday 5th January: We pray for the work of the Ecumenical Mission in Solidarity as they foster relationships across denominations.

Thursday 6th January (Epiphany): Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus. May we continue to be His witnesses, spreading the Gospel wherever we go.

Friday 7th January: Let us pray for the National Missionary Society of India and the work they do in the fields of education and medicine.

Saturday 8th January: We pray for the World Council of Churches, which seeks to build partnerships across churches, countries and continents.

9 JANUARY – 15 JANUARY

MOTHER AND CHILD

The Anglican Church of Tanzania (ACT) is establishing a new End Mother to Child Transmission of HIV programme in the Muheza District of the Tanga region. This initiative seeks to increase uptake in maternal health services and mother to child transmission prevention among women and their partners from 50% to over 80%.

The programme also seeks to ensure that participants will gain the relevant knowledge and develop the appropriate skills to care for their new-born children, particularly with regard to information around food and nutrition. The Anglican Church of Tanzania also hopes that this work will help local people to develop a strong sense of community identity, voice and solidarity, supporting each other in overcoming obstacles for accessing Mother-and-Child health services.

The End Mother to Child Transmission of HIV programme in the Diocese of Tanga is part of the Anglican Church of Tanzania's holistic mission, seeking to spread the healing ministry of Christ. As it is written in the ACT's healthcare strategy, "A sustainable healthcare and social services system delivered with the compassion of Christ, characterized by quality, affordability and respect for creation will result in happy, healthy and peaceful communities".

Sunday 9th January (Baptism of Christ):

O Lord,

May we feel the presence of the

Holy Spirit in our daily lives.

Help us to be led by the Spirit.

Monday 10th January: Let us pray for the Anglican Church of Tanzania, comprised of 27 dioceses in Tanzania and the Diocese of Zanzibar.

Tuesday 11th January: We pray for new mothers, that they might feel supported at this exciting and nervous time in their lives.

Wednesday 12th January: Let us pray for those who specialise in maternal healthcare, ensuring that mothers are provided for during and after pregnancy.

Thursday 13th January: We pray for the Diocese of Tanga as they launch their End Mother to Child Transmission of HIV programme.

Friday 14th January: Let us pray for the Kwamkono Disabled Children's Centre in the Diocese of Tanga, which provides accommodation, education and rehabilitation for children with physical disabilities.

Saturday 15th January: We pray for the continued success of long-running HIV prevention initiatives, such as the scheme run by the Mvumi Hospital in Dodoma, Central Tanzania.

16 JANUARY – 22 JANUARY

A UNITED CHURCH

The Rev'd John Probhudan Hira, Synod Secretary for the Church of Bangladesh and Principal of St Andrew's Theological College

In recent years, many Christian missionaries and priests in Bangladesh have been threatened by terrorist groups. Whenever Christians in Bangladesh face suffering and persecution, churches across many different denominations pray for each other. Praying together gives us the strength to face whatever persecution is waiting for us. Unity, ecumenical relationships and interreligious harmony are very strong in Bangladesh. The Church of Bangladesh works with people irrespective of caste, colour, religion or language.

The early Church provides a model of Christian life and witnessing Christ to the world in praying, worshipping communities. They were united in prayer, having accepted the teachings of the Apostles. Being united in prayer enabled them to be strong in their faith despite facing many differences, divisions and difficulties.

Although we are a church comprised from different denominations, namely Anglicanism and Presbyterianism, and consisting of members from Bengali, Garo, Santali and Chakma backgrounds, the Church of Bangladesh is united in mission and ministry. Please pray for us and for all of our mission partners as we continue to demonstrate that the love of God has no boundaries.

**Sunday 16th January (Second Sunday of Epiphany,
Religious Freedom Day):**

God of all things,

Help us to discern our gifts

And to use them for the common good.

Let us rejoice in the diversity of creation.

Monday 17th January (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity): Today we pray for Christians across many churches, denominations and continents. May we work together to share the love of Jesus Christ with each other and with those who feel outside of the Church.

Tuesday 18th January (Martin Luther King): On this day, we remember the life of Martin Luther King. May we honour his legacy by pursuing racial and economic justice through nonviolent means.

Wednesday 19th January: Let us pray for the Church of Bangladesh, comprised of the Dioceses of Dhaka, Kushtia and Barisal.

Thursday 20th January: We pray for the work of St Andrew's Theological College, the Church of Bangladesh's theological training centre. May they continue to nurture and educate prospective clergy.

Friday 21st January: Let us pray for ecumenical initiatives, both in Bangladesh and across the Anglican Communion. May we recognise that we have more in common than that which divides us.

Saturday 22nd January: Let us give thanks for religious freedom and the ability to freely practise what we believe. May we remember those living in countries where freedom of belief is restricted.

23 JANUARY – 29 JANUARY

BUILDING BRIDGES

The Rev'd Canon Fuad Dagher, Provincial Secretary of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East

It is our calling to be instruments of God's peace and love in a world of violence, hatred, despair and injustice. It is our calling to respect people of other faith affiliations and religious identities, striving to build bridges rather than walls. It is our calling to be a prophetic voice in the wilderness of our wounded world.

As Christians in the Holy Land, the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East is ideally placed to reach out with a message of peace, love and reconciliation to both East and West. We pray for the ability to know the truth, speak the truth and live the truth. In order to achieve peace and justice, we first need to find truth.

We pray that the people of the Holy Land can come together and reconcile both within faith communities and between faith communities. In all of this, the Church has a role; the Church has a mission not only towards its members, but also to the world at large.

So let us pray for the Church in the land of the Holy One and for peace in Jerusalem.

Sunday 23rd January (Third Sunday of Epiphany):

Liberator God,

You teach us to resist oppression,

Lift up the disadvantaged

And centre the marginalised.

May we always pursue justice.

Monday 24th January (International Day of Education): Let us pray for teachers, professors and all those involved in educating children and young adults. May we care for them as they care for those they are educating.

Tuesday 25th January (Paul's Conversion): We pray for those outside of the Church, that they may feel God's love. May we also pray for those responsible for evangelism in the Church, ensuring it is done in a sensitive yet effective manner.

Wednesday 26th January (Timothy and Titus): Today is the feast of both Saint Timothy and Saint Titus. May we discern our roles in the Church and commit to them, whether in positions of leadership or as faithful members of the laity.

Thursday 27th January (Holocaust Remembrance Day): Today we remember the atrocities of the Holocaust. May we continue to commemorate these tragic events in the hope that it will never happen again.

Friday 28th January: Let us pray for the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, as they spread the Good News in the land of the Holy One.

Saturday 29th January: We pray for peace and reconciliation worldwide, and an end to religious conflict.

30 JANUARY – 5 FEBRUARY

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Tamara Khisimisi, Coordinator of the Anglican Council in Malawi

With USPG's support, the Anglican Council in Malawi is implementing a three-year Church and Community programme, seeking to help vulnerable families in the rural parishes of Chinthembwe, Ntchisi District, Chiladzulu in Chiladzulu District, Chilambwe, Nkhata-Bay District, and Lisungwi, Balaka District.

This programme is focused on improving household income, achieving food security and increasing educational attainment. The initiative includes building the capacity of households to promote climate-sensitive agriculture techniques, the use of irrigation kits training in agricultural business skills. The Church and Community programme also seeks to promote village savings schemes in order to build economic resilience within the local area.

Paul* is one of the many people who has benefited from this initiative, saying "I received maize seeds and fertilizers as part of the programme. I learnt to produce manure as part of the training I was offered. This training helped me to take better care of my maize garden and I am confident that this year I will have a better harvest than ever before".

Despite the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Anglican Council in Malawi is helping people like Paul through their Church and Community programme.

*This name has been changed.

Sunday 30th January (Fourth Sunday of Epiphany):

Loving God,

Let us renew our love for all of humanity,

May we focus on spreading

The faith, hope and love

You give to us.

Monday 31st January (Charles Mackenzie): Today we give thanks for the life of Charles Mackenzie, and his work as leader of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa and Missionary Bishop of Central Africa.

Tuesday 1st January: Let us pray for the Anglican Council in Malawi and their newly launched Church and Community programme.

Wednesday 2nd February (Candlemas): Radiant God, we thank You for bringing light into the world through Jesus. May we be redeemed by You.

Thursday 3rd February (Saints and Martyrs of Europe): Let us give thanks for the lives and works of those who committed their lives to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout Europe.

Friday 4th February (Manche Masemola): Today we remember the life of Manche Masemola, who was killed for her Christian beliefs. May we strive to protect those who seek God and are persecuted for doing so.

Saturday 5th February: We give thanks for the development of agricultural tools which have minimal impact on the environment. May we care for creation whilst protecting livelihoods.

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 _____

Tel _____ Email _____

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**

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



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Visit <https://www.uspg.org.uk/harvest2021.php>
where you'll find Harvest worship and prayer resources and an
opportunity to support our Harvest appeal, Gardens of Life.

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