

# PRAYER DIARY

MAY - AUGUST 2023



Diocese of  
Leicester

Launde Abbey is a retreat house in the heart of the country with God at its centre

# Retreats

For more information and to book please call or see our website

Launde Abbey, East Norton  
Leicestershire, LE7 9XB

## May – August 2023 at Launde Abbey

CELTIC SPIRITUALITY 24-27 July  
with John Bell

TEXTILES AND SEWING RETREAT 14-18 August

INDIVIDUALLY GUIDED RETREATS 20-26 August

THE JESUS PRAYER 8-10 September

REFORESTING THE SOUL 12-15 September  
with Andrew Mayes

FOLLOWING JESUS  
AMONG THE POTS AND PANS 2-4 October  
with Mike Harrison

CONTEMPLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY 23-26 October  
with Morna Simpson

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING 20-23 November  
with Roy Searle

Rural Mission Hub gatherings will be led jointly by the Launde Abbey and Rural Ministries teams and is made possible by funding from Rural Ministries. More details can be found on Launde Abbey's 'Rural Mission Hub' page.

  
**Launde Abbey**  
prayer • hospitality • community • sanctuary

## FOREWORD FROM BISHOP OF LEICESTER



I'm writing this at the start of Lent as I begin my pilgrimage around the diocese. The main purpose of this pilgrimage is to encourage people in prayer, and I never cease to be amazed by the

range of approaches to prayer that I encounter as I visit churches in the diocese. There is no one way of praying, and there is real creativity among our churches as they explore prayer in their own context. So I am walking around the diocese to learn as much as to teach.

Of course, the Anglican tradition provides great resources for prayer. We still look to the 1662 Prayer Book as our 'official' prayer book, and even with all the developments in liturgy over the years, we still mark the seasons, both of creation and of the Christian calendar. This rhythm is itself a great incentive to be faithful in our prayers and to be creative in adopting different postures at different times.

But for traditions to remain alive and meaningful, they have to interact with new situations and

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses;  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.**

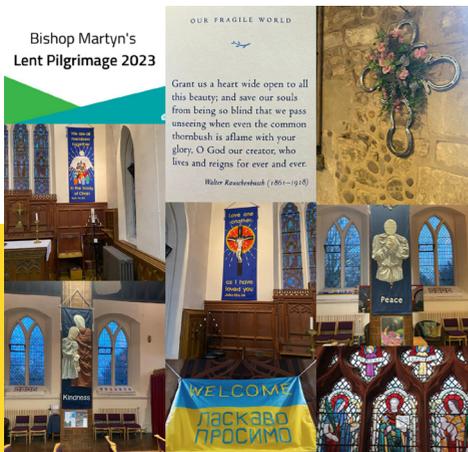
**Notre Père...  
Baba wa...  
我們在天上的父  
...  
Nna Anyi...  
Ojce Nasz...  
Vater unser...  
Ein Tad...  
Wo tye...  
Baba mu...  
...أبانا...  
Padre  
nuestro...  
Πάτερ ἡμῶν...  
Оче наш...  
Pater noster...**

contexts. Just as Anglican liturgy has been adapted by churches around the world as it has been translated, so also, we adapt it for children and young people and for the different cultures present in our own society. I love the fact that we have churches worshipping in multiple languages, and schools where the children write the liturgy for themselves.

This dynamic process of change is healthy for the church, and it can be healthy for us as individuals. So I wonder what new things you are learning about prayer? In what ways has your understanding of prayer deepened and been enriched in recent months or years? Have you adopted new approaches or even new languages (learning the Lord's Prayer in a new language can be great fun)? I hope this prayer diary will continue to both inspire you, and enable you to be faithful in your praise of God, and your intercessions for this world.

+ *Marty Leicester*

**The Rt Revd Martyn Snow**  
Bishop of Leicester





# WELCOME

## Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**Welcome** to the new, late spring and early summer edition of the Diocese of Leicester Prayer Diary for May through to August 2023.

As you receive this, we will be well into the Easter season celebrating our Lord's triumphant resurrection; hope for all across the world.

It is also an historic time for our nation as the Coronation Service of King Charles III takes place on Saturday 6th May 2023 at Westminster Abbey, conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury – do continue to pray for all involved.

If you know of anyone else who would like to receive a paper copy of this publication, then please contact James Pickersgill, the Bishop's Chaplain as below. It can also be downloaded from [www.leicester.anglican.org/everyday-faith/calendar-or-prayer/](http://www.leicester.anglican.org/everyday-faith/calendar-or-prayer/)

Every day we pray for Bishops and our sisters and brothers in Christ around the world using the Anglican Cycle of Prayer and the Porvoo prayer calendar



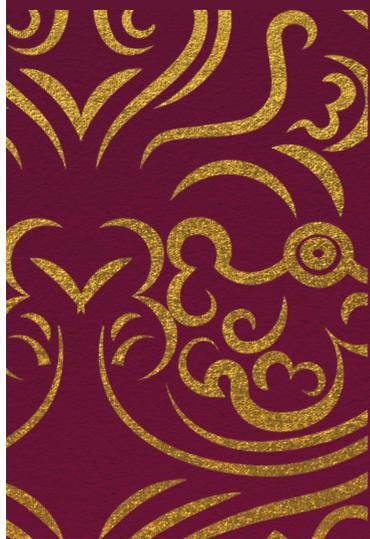
([www.porvoochurches.org](http://www.porvoochurches.org)) – these are included in italics at the bottom of each Sunday. You will also find one of our own partner dioceses featured throughout. The Anglican Communion have changed their practice and now only include the name of the diocese, asking us to pray for the people, clergy and Bishops of the named dioceses. The names of Diocesan Bishops in Great Britain have been added.

The key to the parish entries is as follows: C = Clergy; R = Reader; PA = Pastoral Assistant; Pio = Pioneer Minister; AM = Associate Minister; Evng = Evangelist; PTO = Permission to Officiate.

Do let the Bishop's Chaplain know if you've got a story to feature on a Sunday in a future edition – with as much notice as possible please! Email: [bishops.chaplain@leicestercofe.org](mailto:bishops.chaplain@leicestercofe.org) or phone 0116 270 3390 or send it c/o Bishop's Lodge, 12 Springfield Road, Leicester, LE2 3BD.

We are very grateful as always to Revd Canon Brian Davis for his work on gathering parish prayer requests, to Peter Collett and Florence Gildea for their on-going assistance, to Beth Cluer for much of the imagery and to all our contributors in this edition – thank you!





THE  
CORONATION  
KING CHARLES

III  
2023



## **MON 1 MAY** Diocese of Trichy (see article on page 36)

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

**Bishop Martyn begins Sabbatical for three months. Do pray for a restful, restorative time and for all in the Diocese of Leicester throughout this period.**

*Sokoto (Nigeria)*

## **TUES 2 MAY** Deaf Awareness Week (see article on page 48)

*Framland Deanery*

**Crystal McAllister (Deanery Pioneer Minister)**

My brief is to equip and enable pioneers across the Deanery, reaching those on the edge with the gospel in new ways. Pray for the rising of fXc and missional activities from the depths of the places with a dim but faithful light of followers.

*Central Solomans (Melanesia)*

## **WED 3 MAY** Melton Mowbray

**In Vacancy, Mary Barr (Interim Team Rector and Framland Deanery Ministry Development & Discipleship Enabler) (C), Janet King (Pio), Carol Parker (Pio), Linda Pearson (R), Lorraine Simmonds (PA), St Mary's CE Primary School**

Please pray for God's guidance in the completion of the process to appoint a new Team Rector, and for the on-going worship and witness of the church communities in our town and villages.

*Province of Uganda*

## **THURS 4 MAY** Elections for county & city officials

*The Upper Wreake Benefice*

**David Harknett (C), Malcolm Britton (R-PTO)**

**Frisby-on-the-Wreake CE Primary School**

We celebrate the new Head at Frisby Primary, Mrs Charmaine Ainge, as she and Governors lead us in joining Rise MAT. We seek deeper partnership in our school-church work, to help pupils voice their 'big questions' and encounter Jesus!

*Southwark (England)*

## **FRI 5 MAY** Ironstone Villages

**John Barr (C), Mike Alexander (R/Pio), Christine Alexander (Pio), Paul Taylor (R-PTO),**

**Scalford and Waltham CE Primary Schools**

We give thanks for the contribution made by the Headteachers of our two Church Schools Julie Hopkins and Marie Waring, both of whom retire at the end of this term. Please pray for encouragement and vision, as we join others in Minster Community conversations.

*Southwell and Nottingham (England)*

## **SAT 6 MAY**

Coronation of King Charles III (see pages 6 & 7)

*Episcopal Church of Spain*

## **Prayers**

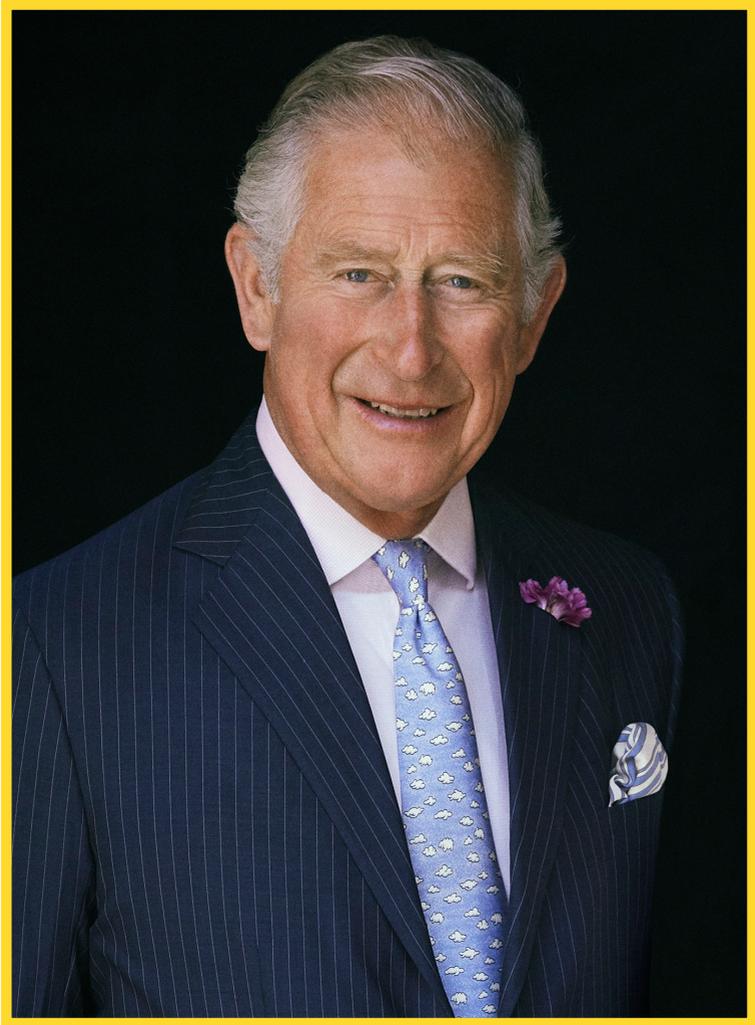
*Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless our Sovereign Lord, King Charles, and all who are in authority under him; that they may order all things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace, to the honour of your name, and the good of your Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

*O God, who providest for thy people by thy power, and rulest over them in love: Grant unto thy servant Charles, our King, the Spirit of wisdom and government, that being devoted unto thee with his whole heart, he may so wisely govern, that in his time thy Church may be in safety, and Christian devotion may continue in peace; that so persevering in good works unto the end, he may by thy mercy come to thine everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

## **1953 Coronation Collect**

*Gracious God, in company with our King, we rededicate ourselves to your service. Take our minds and think through them, take our lips and speak through them, take our hearts and set them on fire with love for you and your kingdom; that here we may have your peace, and in the world to come may see you face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

*Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless, we pray, Camilla the Queen Consort, William Prince of Wales, the Princess of Wales, and all the Royal Family. Endue them with your Holy Spirit; enrich them with your heavenly grace; prosper them with all happiness; and bring them to your everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***



### Confirmation St Peter's, Higham on the Hill

*(The late Queen's coronation was conducted by Archbishop Fisher, whose family have historic links in the St Peter's parish back to 1772).*



### Minster Communities

It's about a year and a half since our Diocesan Synod reflected, discussed and voted to approve our Minster Communities framework and I have recently been reflecting back over that time. For some of us, this time has been filled with activity on working through all the details of how we support and enable churches, schools and fresh expressions to discern what Minster Community could be in their context.

For others, it's been a source of anxious uncertainty or hopeful possibility about what the future might mean. I've had the privilege of seeing from a little distance, the incredible work being done by the people of the churches and communities across the Launde area, as they have taken on the challenge of being the first ones to form a Minster Community in our diocese. They have engaged graciously in a process which they have helped shape and make better for others. It has been encouraging to watch the relationships amongst people from different churches flourish, and new ideas for working together already being put into practice.

Any change can prompt us to reflect on the past and look to the future, and we read accounts of how faithful people have grappled with these challenges throughout scripture and the whole history of the church. The Launde Minster Community, in their written proposal, remind us that we are one part of that long history of faithful people:

"As the Minster Community transitions from vision into action and matures to exhibit a new way of being church in the Launde area it will create a fresh legacy for generations to come. Just as we inherited the legacy of those before us, it will be our successors who will reap the harvest of our faith and hard work."

I hope we can all take inspiration from this, as together we seek to discern God's calling for our churches and find our place of belonging within the rich diversity of our diocese.

#### Please pray for:

- The churches, schools and people of the Launde Minster Community.
- The churches, schools and people currently engaged in forming Minster Communities.

#### Claire Bampton

Diocesan Programme Manager  
Diocese of Leicester

*The Church in Wales*

#### **Church of England:**

*Diocese of Gloucester,  
Bishop Rachel Treweek,  
Bishop Robert Springett*

#### **Church of Sweden:**

*Diocese of Västerås, Bishop Mikael Mogren*

## **MON 8 MAY** Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro (see article on page 32)

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese. *Spokane (Episcopal Church)*

## **TUES 9 MAY** Bishop's Leadership Team Meeting

*Leicester Cathedral Choir singing at the Clergy Support Trust service in St Paul's Cathedral  
Launde Deanery*

*Interim Co-Area Deans: Jonathan Dowman and Alan Humphrey;  
Lay Chair: Madeleine Wang, David Palmer (Pio)*

The parishes of Launde Deanery are the first to become a Minster Community. Please pray as we work together as we commit to work together, grow in discipleship and become the communities of mission God calls us to be.

*Springfield (Episcopal Church)*

## **WED 10 MAY** Loddington

*Alison Myers (C)*

Pray for those from the small village of Loddington and scattered houses of Launde as they continue to meet monthly in their isolated church building and as they consider how to work more closely with neighbouring villages and worshipping communities.

*Port Sudan (Sudan)*

## **THURS 11 MAY** King Charles III Thanksgiving Service at St Mary de Castro

Almighty and everlasting God, we are taught by thy holy Word that the hearts of kings are in thy rule and governance, and that thou dost dispose and turn them as it seemeth best to thy godly wisdom: we humbly beseech thee so to dispose and govern the heart of Charles thy Servant, our King and Governor, that, in all his thoughts, words, and works, he may ever seek thy honour and glory, and study to preserve thy people committed to his charge, in wealth, peace, and godliness: grant this, O merciful Father; for thy dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The service of thanksgiving at St Mary de Castro at 5.30pm – all welcome.*

*Sul-Occidental (Brasil)*

## **FRI 12 MAY** Launde Abbey

*Alison Myers, Chris Webb, Alan Humphrey (see page 16– 28th May 2023)*

*Sunyani (West Africa)*

## **SAT 13 MAY** Diocesan Synod

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

*Sur-Iglesia (Chile)*

## Rogation Sunday

(see article on page 20  
Sunday 4th June 2023)

## Christian Aid Week (14th-20th May 2023)

During Christian Aid Week (14-20 May 2023), we will be standing with people like Esther and Jen, and their families in Malawi. Esther and Jen are strong, determined women who hope to achieve great things for themselves and for their families but they struggle with the soaring costs of food, fuel, fertilizer, school uniforms and school fees.

The soaring costs of food and essentials are having a crushing price on families in Malawi. Children are robbed of the chance to go to school and they are forced to give up on their hopes for the future. Farmers are struggling to survive in the face of the climate crisis. This is unfair and keeps families locked in poverty. And the future is precarious, with the threat of more devastating droughts, floods and storms due to the effects of the climate crisis. But there is hope. You can help people stand strong and help their children’s dreams come true this Christian Aid Week.

Christian Aid has worked in Malawi for 20 years. They empower vulnerable communities to find practical and sustainable ways out of poverty, including giving them the skills to grow crops that are more resilient to the climate crisis and to restore soil fertility through business skills and joint cooperatives to earn more for their crops.

The two partners in this programme are the Nandolo Farmers Association (NFA) and Alliance Development African Foundation (ADAF).

*What you can do:*

### *Take part in the Big Pea*

**Challenge** – plan a pea soup lunch or bake sale using the key ingredient of pigeon pea as cultivated by communities like Esther’s in Malawi.

**Plan a Christian Aid Week Church Collection** ordering envelopes via Christian Aid website.

More information including prayer sheets, orders of service, posters, slides and recipes are available on their website here: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>



This is Esther. Esther started farming pigeon peas in 2011. In 2019, she joined the pigeon pea programme with a group in her community. Affected by the rains during Cyclone Ana, she only harvested five bags. This year, her yield has increased to seven bags.

*Image © Christian Aid*



Esther Saizi and her cooperative make bread from processed pigeon peas. They meet every morning in the warehouse Christian Aid has built and use the large oven to bake bread to sell at the market. *Image © Christian Aid*

## Prayer

*This red envelope, Lord, has been put through my letterbox.*

*And I have delivered others like it through other doors in this Christian Aid Week.*

*As have hundreds of others in churches and faith communities all over the land.*

*It seems such a small thing, in the face of such global hunger, poverty and injustice.*

*And yet, small and slight as it is, this red envelope is a sign, a symbol, of an unwillingness to do nothing, to let the powers and principalities of entrenched inequality remain unchallenged and unchanged.*

*For you, Creator God, have told us what is good, and what you require of us – to do what is just, to show constant love and to live in humble fellowship with you.*

*So I thank you for these red envelopes, for all those who deliver and collect them, for all those many more, of all faiths and none, who give through them.*

*And I pray that as a result someone somewhere will be able to buy a mosquito net, or rebuild a house, or send their daughter to school, or dig a well, or sow seeds and in due course reap a harvest – a harvest of hope.*

*Let your blessing, change-making God, be upon the work of Christian Aid and all agencies and people of good will everywhere who seek your Shalom and pursue it. In the name of the One who came that people might have life – life in all its fullness. Amen*

**Peter Yates**

Global Affairs – Social Responsibility Panel

## St Andrew's Church, Countesthorpe; The Rainbow Shop

If ever there was a picture-perfect definition of 'faithful to the cause', it's The Rainbow Shop at St Andrew's Church in Countesthorpe, and its longstanding loyalty to Christian Aid. Since 1984, the dedicated church community has raised more than £250,000 for the UK charity which fights global poverty.



An extension of the church's hospitality and mission, the shop is something of a social hub, serving tea, coffee and biscuits, as well as selling second-hand goods, good-as-new clothes, Fair Trade products and wholefoods.

Dr Sally Bailey, deputy church warden, and member of St Andrew's for more than 40 years, was there at The Rainbow Shop's creation and today coordinates its team of volunteers. Inspired by the then Vicar Brian Davis and his wife Sylvia, in response to the shocking TV coverage of desperately starving people in Ethiopia, the heart to 'do more to help' was apparent, explains Sally.

"In our house group we were studying **Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger**, which made us all think about our wealth," she says.



## **MON 15 MAY** Diocese of Wyoming (see article on page 46)

**Mental Health Awareness Week (15th-21st May 23)**

**Christian Aid Week (15th-21st May 2023)**

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

**House of Bishops meeting**

*Swansea and Brecon (Wales)*

## **TUES 16 MAY** House of Bishops Meeting

**The Whatborough Parishes**

**Jayne Lewis (C), Susan Sills (R)**

Give thanks for all those who serve through their village churches. Pray for those who meet together at Coffee and Chat, Tilton; for progress in the hoped for re-ordering of St Peter's, Knessington.

*Swaziland (Southern Africa)*

## **WED 17 MAY** House of Bishops Meeting

Bishop's Study Day at St Martin's House

**The Coplow Benefice**

**In vacancy, Andrea Grindley (R), Jane Andrews (PA), Christine Blodwell (PTO), Jeff Hopewell (PTO), John Taylor (PTO)**

**Billesdon CE Primary School**

Please pray for the everyone in the parishes of Billesdon with Goadby, the Gaulby Group, Skeffington, Hungarton and Keyham, and the staff and parents of Billesdon Primary School as they journey together exploring how they will best serve the Lord within a Launde Minster Community.

*Sydney (Australia)*

## **THURS 18 MAY** St Theodore of Canterbury

**Hallaton & Allexton with Horninghold, Tugby, East Norton & Slawston In vacancy, Madeleine Wang (R)**  
**Hallaton & Tugby CE Primary Schools**

Give thanks for all those who serve through their village churches. Pray for those who meet together at St Morrell's Café, Hallaton, and the Place of Welcome, Tugby; and who journey with God via the newly inaugurated pilgrimage St Morrell's Round.

*Tabora (Tanzania)*

## **FRI 19 MAY** All Saints, Scraftoft & Netherhall

**The Langtons and Shangton Maxine Johnson (R), Ian Gemmell (PTO), Martin Hathaway (PTO)**  
**Church Langton CE Primary School**

We pray for the launch and development of the Minster Community in our Launde Deanery; that by working together, we will help grow and strengthen the Ministry and Mission of our rural parishes.

*Te Pihopatanga o Tai Tokeru (New Zealand)*

## **SAT 20 MAY**

Called Together Service for Lay Ministries at St Margaret's, Leicester at 3pm

(See entry on page 14 – Sunday 21st May 2023)

*Te Pihopatanga o Tairawhiti (New Zealand)*

## SUNDAY 21 MAY PENTECOST SUNDAY

### Confirmation, Leicester Cathedral

#### Called Together Service 20th May

The annual Called Together Service is a celebration of the contribution lay ministers make to the life of the diocese and the communities we serve.

This year we carried out a survey of lay ministers and it highlighted the extensive range of their roles and contribution. Lay ministers offer spiritual leadership in their local churches, they lead us in worship and help us to deepen our faith, they offer pastoral care and are active in loving service to their communities, they are faithful witnesses in their places of work and minister in schools, care homes and hospices; many officiate at funerals and care for the bereaved. Lay ministers respond to the needs of the most vulnerable members of our communities and support the functioning of our churches. Lay ministers truly are salt and light in the world.

This afternoon we will gather together for the Called Together service at St Margaret's Church to celebrate our lay ministers, to pray for them and give thanks to them. Bishop Saju will be licensing 8 new Associate Ministers and relicensing many existing Associate Ministers, Readers, Pioneers, Pastoral Assistants and Evangelists.

Maybe you can consider how you can bless and thank the lay ministers who serve in your parish or benefice and join with us as we pray the Collect of Ministry.



*Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church  
is governed and sanctified:  
hear our prayer which we offer for all  
your faithful people,  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may serve you in holiness and truth  
to the glory of your name;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.*

**Amen.**

#### **Revd Liz Rawlings**

PT&MD Enabler Discipleship & Vocations

#### ***The Church in the West Indies***

***Church of England:*** Diocese of Exeter,  
Bishop Robert Atwell, Bishop James Grier,  
Bishop Jackie Searle

***Church of Norway:*** Diocese of Nord-Halogaland,  
Bishop Olav Oygard

## **MON 22 MAY** Diocese of Kiteto (see article on page 40)

Pease pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

*Taita-Taveta (Kenya)*

## **TUES 23 MAY**

### **Welham, Glooston and Cranhoe and Stonton Wyville Philip Norwood (PTO)**

Welham parish has 14 houses, as do Stonton Wyville and Cranoe. Glooston is a community of 33 houses. Pray for a wider sense of Christian Community in these parishes and a desire to know, treasure and share the precious Gospel of the love of God.

*Taiwan (Episcopal Church)*

## **WED 24 MAY**

### **Bishop Saju visit to Framland Deanery**

*Tamale (West Africa)*

## **THURS 25 MAY**

### **Bishop Saju visit to Framland Deanery**

*Tanga (Tanzania)*

## **FRI 26 MAY** Six Saints circa Holt

### **Stephen Bishop (C), Roy Cashmore (R-PTO)**

Thanksgiving for familiar patterns of parish worship and events resuming this year, including Lent lunches, concerts and one-off Coronation gatherings. Pray that Christian care may be expressed through our shared community life, together with accompaniment on individual journeys of faith. *Central Tanganyika (Tanzania)*

## **SAT 27 MAY**

### **3 Key Questions**

As a Diocese, we seek the Kingdom of God in: the depth of discipleship, the number of disciples of Jesus, and loving service of the world. To help us all discern how we are ushering in the Kingdom in these respects, we use three key questions:

- How are you growing, and enabling others to grow in the depth of their discipleship?
- How are you enabling growth in the numbers of disciples of Jesus?
- How are you serving your community, and enabling others to love and serve those around them?

Over the coming weeks, we will pray through these three questions and our five strategic priorities.

*Loving God, as we pray and seek you, touch our hearts and draw us closer to you we pray, in Jesus' name.*

**Amen.**

*Tanganyika (Tanzania)*



When most people think of Pentecost they think of energy and drama. The Holy Spirit comes in fire, the apostles preach in the streets, the crowds are astounded by signs and wonders, and thousands turn to faith. Pentecost is wild, thrilling and exuberant, a raucous outpouring of holy excitement.

So you might think it's surprising that we're inviting you to pray for Launde Abbey on the week of Pentecost. Isn't a retreat house the opposite of all that? A place of quiet, stillness, silence?

That's true. But perhaps it's worth remembering that, although the Spirit burst into the world explosively on Pentecost, much of the Spirit's work in the long term is slow, quiet and hidden. Over many years the Spirit works in each of us to draw us deeper into God, to shape the character of Christ in us, to grow in us the fruit of love, joy, peace and more. So, a vibrant church singing lively songs can be Spirit-filled. But a candlelit Chapel where people sit in silent contemplation can also be Spirit-filled - and so can our homes, our workplaces, our neighbourhoods and anywhere we are able to be open to the Spirit's transforming work in our lives.

Do pray for the ministry of Launde Abbey this Pentecost season. Pray for the ministry team (Alison, Chris and Alan), the staff, volunteers and trustees. Pray that the Spirit would be at work in every individual and group that visits Launde. Pray for our Quiet Days and the upcoming retreat programme, that God would touch people's lives:

- **24-27 July:** Celtic Spirituality with John Bell
- **14-18 August:** Textiles and Sewing Retreat
- **20-26 August:** Individually Guided Retreats
- **8-10 September:** The Jesus Prayer
- **12-15 September:** Reforesting the Soul with Andrew Mayes
- **2-4 October:** Following Jesus among the Pots and Pans with Mike Harrison
- **23-26 October:** Contemplative Photography with Morna Simpson
- **20-23 November:** Blessed to be a Blessing with Roy Searle

**The Revd Chris Webb**

Deputy Warden of Launde Abbey



## **Pentecost**

A group of Christians meet regularly to worship and pray. A rather ordinary picture of church life. On this particular day, as they prayed and worshipped things began to get a little strange – the building shook, the wind whistled, tongues of fire appeared and each person was filled with the Spirit of God.

The Spirit was given, to all those gathered, for a common purpose; given as an assurance that they were the beloved children of God, given as a foretaste of an inheritance of glory; but also given to call each of them to fruitfulness; to be bearers of God's transforming grace in the places and among the people they found themselves.

As we gather to worship and pray this Pentecost our buildings may not noticeably shake, the wind may not be heard and tongues of fire may not be visible but the gift of the Spirit has been given to us nevertheless for the same purpose. Like those first disciples we are called to be bearers of God's transforming grace in the places and among the

people we find ourselves. So, this Pentecost may we pause to consider how we live out our faith in every sphere of our lives; our households, our workplaces and our communities and what gifts we are being encouraged to offer to build up the life of our church.

As you ponder these questions you may feel God's continued call to the things you are already doing and wish to take some time to pray for refreshment and further fruitfulness. But you may find that the Spirit is leading you into something new; unexpected even. If that is the case, speak to someone you trust or ask to meet a Vocations Advisor so they can help you discern where the wind of the Spirit may be drawing you.

### **Revd Liz Rawlings**

Vocations Enabler - [liz.rawlings@leicestercofe.org](mailto:liz.rawlings@leicestercofe.org)



*God, who as at this time  
taught the hearts of your faithful people  
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:  
grant us by the same Spirit  
to have a right judgement in all things  
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;  
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

*The Extra Provincial Churches*

**Church of England:** Diocese of Hereford,  
Bishop Richard Jackson

**The Lusitanian Church (Portugal):**  
Bishop José Jorge Pina Cabral

**The Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Abroad:**  
Archbishop Lauma Zušēvica

## MON 29 MAY Diocese of Trichy (see article on page 36)

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

*Western Tanganyika (Tanzania)*

## TUES 30 MAY Gaulby

*In vacancy, Hilary Painter (R)*

The Gaulby Group consists of four rural villages, four churches and about 400 people. We are looking forward to being part of the Launde Minster community and building on the strong links that have already developed.

*Tarime (Tanzania)*

## WED 31 MAY Gartree Deanery

*Area Dean: Steve Bailey; Lay Chair: Gordon Arthur*

For our continued work across the Deanery to share the good news of Jesus Christ among the communities we serve. For those whom God is calling to serve on Deanery Synod as we elect new lay reps.

*Tasmania (Australia)*

## THURS 1 JUNE Foxton with Gumley & Laughton

*In Vacancy*

We pray for the help and support of local retired clergy, during the interregnum. For those who lead the services, the PCC, flower arrangers, cleaners, coffee makers and everyone who supports the church in its ministry to the community.

*Taungoo (Myanmar)*

## FRI 2 JUNE Wistow, Fleckney & Kilby

*Philip O'Reilly (C), Paul Garner (R)*

*Kilby St Mary's & Fleckney CE Primary Schools*

Please pray for the ministry of the church in our church schools and for the Lord's blessing upon our pilgrimages this year and all of our outreach and service.

*Te Pihopatanga o Te Waipounamu (New Zealand)*

## SAT 3 JUNE

**3 Key Questions - Deepening Disciples**

Our first key question as a Diocese is: How are you growing, and enabling others to grow in the depth of their discipleship?

*God of all heights and depths,*

*Who knows us better than we know ourselves,*

*Help us to see clearly where you have gifted us*

*And opportunities to use those gifts to bless others;*

*Help us to hear Your call;*

*And to have the strength and courage to follow it.*

*Give us, we pray, the wisdom, patience and compassion*

*To disciple others as you have disciplined us,*

*And help us to point unfailingly to your love and grace,*

*In Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.*

*Temotu (Melanesia)*



### Lapwing

Since 1960 numbers of lapwings in England and Wales have dropped by 80%. (Photo by Richard Stonier [www.birdsonline.co.uk](http://www.birdsonline.co.uk))

### Environment Sunday

Here is an old idea with a modern relevance – a simple idea for keeping Rogationtide, making it more relevant to our present environmental crisis. It was originally about asking God (Latin – rogare – to ask) to bless the crops. Rogation Days are the three weekdays before Ascension Day, but many churches have observed Rogation on the preceding Sunday.

Worship Outside! Traditionally a Rogationtide service is held outside. Our services are often too static, and isolated from the environment. So, it is good to move outside, into God's creation. And such a service is good for all ages – the children especially will love it. Being on the move keeps our attention from wandering, and the message can come across much more effectively.

We celebrate God's wonderful creation. We remind ourselves of how much we depend on the crops in the fields and farm animals for our food, as well as remembering so many other blessings. But it is also a time to repent of the harm we have done and are doing to our planet: our neglect and exploitation of our environment; our treatment of our fellow creatures, so that many are now facing extinction; above all, global warming and climate change, largely man-made.

As Christians we cannot shrug our shoulders, and carry on as if nothing is happening. We human beings are responsible for planet earth. God has placed it in our hands. We must repent and with God's help we can and we must change our ways.

Our worship ought to re-connect us with the natural world, God's creation. It is our failure to remember we are made from the dust of the earth, and to

dust we will return, that has caused the crisis that humanity faces today. Creation is crying out because of the harm we have inflicted on her. So our worship outside should begin by giving thanks to God, our creator, and remember, as Martin Luther said *"The Gospel is not only found in the pages of the Bible but is written in the trees and the flowers, in nature all around us."*

You can find this Rogation Sunday Service which I wrote in 2018 in

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/a-service-for-rogationtide-booklet/>

Please feel to use it. You can download the booklet – it is a 12 sided pdf file, so print it "booklet fold" and it comes out as an A5 booklet. Or just enjoy reading it as it is.

### A Prayer

*Dear Lord and Father, we are sorry that we so often forget that all creation belongs to you, and that you have made us responsible for its wellbeing. Forgive us for the damage we have inflicted on our mother earth, and on our fellow creatures. Help us in this hour of crisis, to turn to you, to change our ways and in humble love and service to cherish your whole creation. Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer. Amen.*

### Revd Canon Brian Davis – PTO

*The Episcopal Anglican Province of Alexandria*

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland:**

*Bishop Agnes Sigurdardottir, Bishop Kristjan Björnsson, Bishop Gisli Gunnarsson*

**The Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church:**

*Bishop Carlos Lopez Lozano*

## **MON 5 JUNE** Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro (see article on page 32)

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

**Market Harborough and The Transfiguration - Little Bowden with Lubenham and Great Bowden**  
Barry Hill, Alison Iliffe, Hilary Corcoran, Vicky & Phil Bryson, Andy Giles, Pep Hill, Susan Cooper, Alistair Helm, Peter Mackenzie, Rob Leveritt, Tom Grant (C), Dawn O'Connell (Families), Liz Allen (PA-PTO), Angela Hill (PA-PTO), Susan Meadows (R), Lydia Tebbutt (R), All Saints' Lubenham, Market Harborough CE Primary Schools & Gt Bowden Academy.

Please pray for this Resource Church Benefice, for all the experimental forms of worship, and ministry; and especially for Barry Hill, that he may make a good recovery. *Tennessee (Episcopal Church)*

## **TUES 6 JUNE** College of Bishops Meeting

**St Dionysius - Part of Harborough Team**  
Vicky & Phil Bryson (C)

We give thanks for our recent pancake party and the opportunity it gave to bless our community; and we would love prayer as we look to enable our diverse range of worshipping communities to thrive and grow together. *East Tennessee (Episcopal Church)*

## **WED 7 JUNE** Transfiguration St Hugh & St Nicholas - Part of Harborough Team

**Alison Iliffe, Rob Leveritt (C), Elizabeth Allen (PA-PTO)**

Rejoicing in our parish unity, inclusion and fellowship we share. We pray for SNUGS, Messy Church, Early Church and Alpha-kids@SNX. As we continue along our journey with the re-ordering of St Hugh, we pray that we recognise God with us.

*West Tennessee (Episcopal Church)*

## **THURS 8 JUNE** Great Bowden St Peter & St Paul Part of Harborough Team

**Hills Corcoran (C)**

Please pray for us as we look to start a new weekly intergenerational service for the families in our village - that they would see how precious Jesus is, and seek to follow God and be transformed.

*Terekeka (South Sudan)*

## **FRI 9 JUNE** All Saints, Lubenham Part of Harborough Team

We give thanks for our work and growth in the school, Lubenham Lambs (pre-school church group) and choir. Praise for the Lent group, prayer for our continuing community involvement and Open Gardens June 11th, and our ministry, pastoral and school groups.

*Northern Territory (Australia)*

## **SAT 10 JUNE** Retreat Day for Lay Ministers

Holy Spirit, you are welcome in this space. Please help all who are gathered here today to be open to the movements of the Spirit. Help this retreat to encourage a radical transformation in our hearts. We hope this retreat is a time of restoration, joy, and mercy. May all who are gathered here lay all their burdens down at the door. May this day be a time to focus on how we can grow as disciples and bring your light to everyone we meet. Thank you for this retreat and those who have worked so hard to prepare a sacred experience. In Your Name, we pray. **Amen.**

*Texas (Episcopal Church)*

## SUNDAY 11 JUNE TAX JUSTICE SUNDAY



### Tax Justice Sunday

For Levi sitting in his tax booth in Capernaum life changed irrevocably when Jesus swung by. Probably collecting taxes on goods to fill the coffers of the occupying power – Rome – he was a collaborator in an oppressive system and, as such, distrusted and essentially an outcast from Jewish society. Let's be careful, though, not to see tax collectors or taxation today necessarily as bad, and to recognize the place responsible taxation plays in addressing need and injustice.

Sadly, while Christ was not afraid to talk about such things, we often struggle to discuss even simple financial issues or what we do with our money. We are locked into systems of earning, spending and saving whose structures most of us only vaguely understand. How to make sense of economic models, of the management of inflation, of the effects of different proposed policies etc.? Even economists differ in their explanations!

And, as Christians, what does good ethical behaviour look like? We trust that the tax system enables us collectively and as a nation to support the needs of others but how to react when we recognize injustices and inequalities within that system, or wish it operated differently? And too often the lens through which we consider taxation is at best national, but the global economy is a whole

web of implications for our planet and people in the most vulnerable situations. Let's raise our sights and understandings truly to recognize that these are matters of God in which we are called to play our part.

#### Pray for:

HMRC employees and others who administer our tax system;

Economists and law makers shaping and making decisions around tax generation and spending;

People across the globe at the mercy of unjust and corrupt financial systems.

#### For further information check out the following:

- Tax Justice Network – a global advocacy group addressing tax injustices, avoidances etc.
- Fair Tax Network – accredits companies with responsible corporate approaches to social responsibility tax with their Fair Tax Mar
- Just Money Movement – a Christian organisation campaigning to shape a fairer greener world and providing useful resources for Churches. They have specific resources for Church use on Tax Justice Sunday.

#### Revd Canon Alison Adams

Canon Pastor, Leicester Cathedral

*Aotearoa (New Zealand)*

#### Scottish Episcopal Church:

*Diocese of Argyll and the Isles, Bishop Keith Riglin*

#### Church of Ireland:

*Diocese of Connor, Bishop George Davison*

#### Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:

*Diocese of Lolland-Falster,  
Bishop Marianne Gaarden*

## **MON 12 JUNE** Diocese of Wyoming (see article on page 46)

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

**Retired Clergy Tea Party**  
**Bishops Council**

*Northwest Texas (Episcopal Church)*

## **TUES 13 JUNE** IWC Board Meeting

**Oadby & Great Glen Team Ministry**

**Steve Bailey, Jon Tearne, Kim Ford, Sarah Collins, Ben Williams (C), Colin Chettle (R), Karen Johnson (R), Roger Flowers (R), Angela Allen (R), Charles Ford (Evng), Louise McGoldrick (Youth)**

Pray for us as we continue to explore all that it means to be an Intercultural Worshipping Community, for grace as we grow and learn together. Give thanks for Maria as she completes her curacy and moves on.

*West Texas (Episcopal Church)*

## **WED 14 JUNE** Bishop's Leadership Team

**Glen Magna cum Stretton Magna, Carlton Curlieu & Burton Overy**

**Kim Ford (C), Sarah Collins (C), Ben Williams (C), Roger Flowers (R), Angela Allen (R), Bernard Higgins (PTO)**  
**CE St Cuthbert's Primary**

Please pray for a time of real change within our benefice as several of our team members leave for other ministry, which is a blessing but also a loss. Praise God for tremendous growth with prayer for greater discipleship as this happens. Prayers for Kim, our incumbent, as she goes on sabbatical in the summer.

*Thika (Kenya)*

## **THURS 15 JUNE** Kibworth with Smeeton Westerby & Saddington

**Ludger Fremmer (C), Anne Flower (R), Patricia Thompson (R-PTO), Eunice Hayes (Evng), Theresa Jackson (PA), Jacki Shorley (PA).**

**Kibworth C of E Primary School**

Please pray: for our new Christian Youth club; that we find new Church Wardens, 5 out of 7 posts need filling; for the new head at our school and that we find the right person to be our new Worship leader.

*Nazareth (South India)*

## **FRI 16 JUNE** Cornerstone

**Rob Miles, Tom Devas, Steve Ransley, Matthew Creber-Davies, Steve Sweet (C)**

We are giving thanks for the establishment of our plant, 'Living Hope Church'; and for the beginning of building work for our community café project. Please pray for our new youth group meetings and outreach this term.

*Polynesia (New Zealand and Polynesia)*

## **SAT 17 JUNE**

*Loving God, we pray for today and all those seeking rest and refreshment; draw close in your loving kindness. In Jesus's precious name. Amen.*



## Refugee Week

**19th – 25th June**

Refugee Week is a UK-wide festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary and held every year around World Refugee Day on the 20th June.

Compassion is the theme for this year's Refugee Week, recognising that as we continue to adjust to new post-pandemic realities, with cost-of-living pressures and extreme anti-migration rhetoric increasingly present, there is a need to widen our circles of compassion.

### **SIMPLE ACTS**

Refugee Week helps to challenge negative stereotypes by creating a space where refugees can be seen and heard beyond their experience of displacement and thereby celebrates the contributions of refugees and

people seeking sanctuary because everyone has a contribution to make. This week we are challenged to think about

- how much we pay attention to the contributions that refugees around us already make to our communities and the life of our churches.
- How we empower those who have experienced displacement to express themselves on their own terms creatively, culturally, and spiritually.
- How our unconscious thoughts and images of refugees are shaped by images of their past displacement and journeys rather than by the economic, cultural, spiritual and community contributions they are now making.

### **Within the Diocese of Leicester:**

- There are many churches and fresh expressions and church members who are engaged in welcoming refugees and offering support, often in conjunction with other community organisations and charities.



- More broadly, as part of our Intercultural Communities priority, we are encouraging churches and church schools to make the most of opportunities to enable the full breadth of our cultural diversity to be seen in our worship, leadership, serving and social life. The welcome we offer to refugees is key part of this.

#### Please pray for:

- Alertness this week to examples of cultural and spiritual contributions from refugees and those seeking sanctuary, whether in our local community or online e.g on Twitter @refugeeweek #refugeeweek2023
- All charities and agencies within Leicestershire, including churches and fresh expressions, in our support of the needs of refugees and those seeking sanctuary, to encourage also their contributions to our common life.
- A Kingdom focused vision that encourages our wholehearted partnerships with other refugee support agencies and charities

- Public figures speaking out in support of compassionate concern for refugees and asylum seekers, including Bishop Martyn and other Bishops in the House of Lords
- Church schools and local schools enabling children from displaced families to enter or re-enter the world of education and to find a place of belonging and valuing of their contributions to class and school life.

#### Ven Richard Worsfold

Archdeacon of Leicester and Chair of the Social Responsibility Panel

#### **Church of England:**

*Diocese in Europe, Bishop Robert Innes,  
Bishop David Hamid*

#### **Church of Sweden:**

*Diocese of Visby, Bishop Erik Eckerdal*

#### **Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:**

*Diocese of Copenhagen,  
Bishop Peter Skov-Jakobsen*



All images on pages 24, 25 & 26 are from pictures drawn by an asylum seeker at the Roots Art and Soul Café

## MON 19 JUNE Diocese of Kiteto (see article on page 40)

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

**19th – 25th June Refugee Week**

Tohoku (Japan)

## TUES 20 JUNE Wigston

*In vacancy, Chris Johnson, Nick Baker, Paul Betts (C); Jenny Barradell (PA-PTO)  
All Saints CofE School, Wigston Magna.*

Please continue to pray for us during an extended period of vacancy as we seek to appoint a new Rector. Please pray also for our ongoing building of relationships with our local schools and the communities that we serve.

Tohoku (Japan)

## WED 21 JUNE Goscote Deanery

*Area Dean: Rob Gladstone; Lay Chair: Stephen Gamble*

With much of the Deanery in vacancy and preparing for Minster Communities, please give thanks for faithful lay leadership and pray for openness to the best possible structures for mission.

Tollara (Indian Ocean)

## THURS 22 JUNE Rothley

*Rob Gladstone (C), Valerie Joyce (R-PTO), David Wilson (R-PTO)  
Rothley CE Primary School*

Give thanks for new leaders and pray for an evangelistic heart in all our congregations and for a hunger to know the Lord better through his word.

Tonj (South Sudan)

## FRI 23 JUNE Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast

The National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast takes place each year, bringing over 700 MPs, Peers and church leaders gather together to pray for our Parliament, government and politics, to build relationships between church leaders and their local MPs, and to reflect upon the relevance of the Christian faith to our public life.

This year, Dr Amy Orr-Ewing will be speaking to those who attend about *'The Power of Forgiveness in Public Life'*.

Please pray for Amy's talk to resonate with many of the politicians and public figures, that they would be moved to live more mercifully, and that they would be drawn to the offer of grace through Jesus Christ.

**Florence Gildea** Social Policy Advisor to The Bishop of Leicester.

Torit (South Sudan)



## SAT 24 JUNE Armed Forces Day

*Heavenly Father, we commend to your gracious care and keeping  
all the men and women in our Armed Forces at home and abroad.  
Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace;  
strengthen them in their trials and temptations;  
and give them courage to face the perils that beset them;  
and help them to know that nothing can separate them from your love;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Toronto (Canada)



What is the point of this prayer diary? Why do we pray for churches we've never been to and individuals we might have only seen across the hall at Synod or Study Day?

Recently we celebrated Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit on Jesus' followers. With descriptions of speaking in tongues and healings, it's clear that the holy spirit can move and empower individuals to do the unimaginable. But the Spirit also achieves something equally beyond the human will: It makes us one.

Pentecost marks the beginning of the Christian Church not because that was when the first building was met or a PCC passed a resolution to make it so, but because the Spirit descended to bind together those who had little else in common. Despite their various backgrounds, abilities, experiences and even beliefs, this diverse gathering shared a common mission.

Of course, spiritual truths and lived experience don't always perfectly coincide. We may recognise Paul's teachings about the Church being one body, but that doesn't necessarily mean we get along with our fellow Christians. We know we are called to love each other as Christ loved us, even unto death. But, really, Jesus? Wouldn't tolerating each other suffice?

Whether it is disagreements over doctrine, tensions about Minister Communities, or common-or-garden personality clashes, the call for us to be one as the Father and Son are one seems one of the hardest to live up to. Yet, if there was a historical moment when forgiving one another seventy-seven times and marking the sacredness of our holy ground could be a supernatural witness to the world, I think this could be it.

Last month, to coincide with Pentecost, the Diocese published a series of resources to support our strategic objective of developing Reconciling Communities. These include sermon outlines by leaders within the Diocese, Collective Worship and school prayer space resources, prayers for reconciliation, and other ideas for you to use in your worshipping communities, home groups and personally. I hope you will consider how they might be helpful for your context, and that you will join with your diverse and disparate sisters and brothers in praying:

- For wisdom, guidance and spiritual nourishment for our leaders as they seek to maintain the unity and diversity of the Anglican Communion.
- For the Church to become a witness to peace in a polarising world – that we would become like our God, in whom mercy triumphs over judgment.
- For all those bearing the burden of conflict, whether internally, in their own home, communities or on a national or international stage – that the God of peace would strengthen their spirit and keep them safe.

**Florence Gildea**

Social Policy Advisor to the Bishop of Leicester

*The Church of Bangladesh*

**Church of England:** *Diocese of Lincoln, acting bishop – Bishop Stephen Conway, Bishop David Court, Bishop Nicholas Chamberlain*

**Church of Sweden:** *Diocese of Härnösand, Bishop Eva Nordung Byström*

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:** *Diocese of Lapua, Bishop Matti Salomäki*

## **MON 26 JUNE** Diocese of Trichy (see article on page 36)

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

**Roots Intercultural Worshipping Community**

**Kat Gibson (Pio)**

Please pray for our intercultural worship journey, as we learn to increasingly honour each other's languages, stories and traditions in our gatherings. Also for our work with families in the asylum process, and for those carrying extreme traumas.

*Trichy-Tanjore (South India)*

## **TUES 27 JUNE** Sibley, Cossington & Seagrave

**Duncan Beet (C), John Harrison (R), Heather Hall (R)**

**Cossington CE Primary School**

We are a rapidly expanding parish and our social ministry, including our food bank, also expanding rapidly. Please pray for relationships with our food bank clients. Give thanks for new faces at church and for new people coming into ministry.

*Trinidad and Tobago (West Indies)*

## **WED 28 JUNE**

**Ordination Retreat which Bishop Saju is leading.**

*God our Father, Lord of all the world,  
through your Son you have called us into the fellowship  
of your universal Church:*

*hear our prayer for your faithful people  
that in their vocation and ministry  
each may be an instrument of your love,  
and give to your servants now to be ordained  
the needful gifts of grace;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

*Truro (England)*

## **THURS 29 JUNE** Syston and Barkby

**In vacancy, Bidy Saunders (C), John Leonard (PTO), Sue Essex (PA), Brian Middleton (PA-PTO),**

**Wendy Hardy (Pio), Ruthie Leonard (Pio), Theresa Morgan (Pio)**

**SS Peter & Paul School, Syston**

We continue to give thanks to God for all those who come forward to lead worship and offer strength during our long interregnum. Please pray for all those who feel unsettled and that they may find peace and wholeness.

*Tuam, Killala and Achonry (Ireland)*

## **FRI 30 JUNE** Thurmaston and East Goscote

**In vacancy, Stephen Gamble (R), Sheila Langley (R), John Hewer (R); Mandy Green (Children and Families); Church Hill School, Thurmaston**

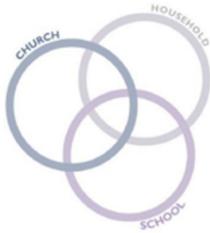
Please pray for Thurmaston St Michael and All Angels, who are part of cluster 3 Minster Community Conversations. This is causing anxiety and differing opinions. We pray for understanding of the process and what it will mean for us all.

*Twic East (South Sudan)*

## **SAT 1 JULY**

**Ordination of Priests at St Mary's, Melton Mowbray at 3pm**

*Udi (Nigeria)*



## Ordination of Deacons at All Saints, Loughborough at 10.45am

### Growing Faith

Mark 9:36-37 says: He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me." Children and young people matter to God. Although the above scripture is one that many of us know well, I believe it is key to really reflect on what this is calling us all to do and be.

Do we really think it is important to proactively involve children and young people at the heart of everything we do as a church? Do we really believe they have a valuable contribution to make?

You would only need to spend one afternoon in any one of our 97 Church schools for that answer to be a resounding YES! Children have an amazing ability to see right to the heart of something and call it as they see it. Visits to some of our Church schools recently have left me inspired by how much of a spiritual thirst there is amongst children and young people, and how our Church schools flourish when spiritual development is placed as an integral part of school life.

I have seen this in big questions being asked in lessons, emotional prayers being shared in reflective spaces and hearts singing out to God

in Collective Worship. It is always pleasing to see how this is enhanced by schools visits to the Church and equally, Church visitors who are welcomed with open arms within school. The Growing Faith foundation is a movement that exists to put children, young people, and families instinctively at the heart of all the mission and ministry of the Church, by changing the culture of the Church of England. I believe that this culture change can only really come about if we pray and ask God to help us with the conditions of our hearts and inviting him in to change what needs changing. Your will be done, not ours.

### Prayer Points

Pray for wisdom through the minster community process and that we can see how to authentically involve schools (and so children and young people) within the process.

Pray for creative ways to make connections between Church, school, and home.

Pray for the national Growing Faith Foundation and the work being done by the central team. Pray that it really starts to have an impact in our local area.

Pray for the amazing work our schools do and for their continued strength and guidance in leading schools where all can flourish.

### Tracey Manns

Deputy Director of Education for the LDBE

*The Anglican Church of Brasil*

**Church of England:** *Diocese of St Albans, Bishop Alan Smith, Bishop Richard Atkinson, vacancy – Bishop of Hertford*

**Church of Sweden:** *Diocese of Linköping, Bishop Marika Markovits*

## **MON 3 JULY** Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro (see article on page 32)

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

*Northern Uganda (Uganda)*

## **TUES 4 JULY** Bishop's Leadership Team Meeting

*Queniborough, Thrussington, Ratcliffe and Rearsby*

*In vacancy, Ian Hill (C), Amanda Granger (Children And Families Worker).*

*Schools: St. Mary's, Queniborough, St. Michael & All Angels', Rearsby, & Thrussington School, Thrussington.*

Please can you pray for our four village churches and their congregations; we give thanks for all of our committed loyal members who give up their time and money to look after and share in the work of Christ in these Parishes.

*Vellore (South India)*

## **WED 5 JULY** Birstall and Wanlip

*Amanda Digman (C), Gill Pope (PA-PTO), Doreen Wilson (PA-PTO), Lesley Walton (R-PTO), Kerry Emmett, Ann Horton, Robin Martin, Michael Webb (PTO)*

Please pray for us as we seek God for how to reach out to our local community; for our work with local schools; as we continue to gel together as a team and as we grieve the loss of several church members.

*Ukwa (Nigeria)*

## **THURS 6 JULY**

**IWC Residential taking place over next 3 days**

*Umuhla (Nigeria)*

## **FRI 7 JULY** The Deanery of Akeley East (Loughborough)

*The Deanery of Akeley East (Loughborough)*

*Area Dean: Andrew Race; Lay Chair: Codra Spencer*

We pray for good conversations, mutual encouragement and a fresh attentiveness to the move of the Spirit across a diverse and active deanery, currently with two vacancies.

*Umzimvubu (Southern Africa)*

## **SAT 8 JULY**

### **3 Key Questions - Growing Disciples**

Our second key question as a Diocese is: How are you enabling growth in the numbers of disciples of Jesus?

*God of the abundant harvest and the bursting fishing nets,*

*Forgive us our bashfulness in sharing your good news.*

*Enliven us afresh with the hope of new disciples,*

*The boldness to seek them, and the faithfulness to nurture them.*

*So that more people come to see you more clearly,*

*Love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly.*

*In the name of Christ, Amen.*

*Te Pihopatanga o Upoko o Te Ika (New Zealand)*



**Confirmation – North West Leicester Deanery**

**The Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro [DMK]**

The Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro [DMK] continues to be focused on Church Planting, especially to remote areas where the gospel has not been preached, taught or lived out. DMK is committed to engaging with disparate tribes with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Bishop Stanley committed to planting 500 churches in about 5-7 years. The total has now reached around 475. This of course comes at a cost as the Diocese needs to support, train and encourage Pastors in order for the plants to become sustainable. One of the church plants that I have visited 4-5 times has been developed by Jasper and Mary Byabashaija. From very small and fragile beginnings Jasper and Mary have planted a church and now have developed a school which is focusing on supporting young girls who would have been subject to “forced” marriages to significantly older men. Please pray for Jasper and Mary as well as the whole church panting programme.

Tanzania, with the whole of East Africa, is also suffering from drought. There has been little consistent rain over the past 6 months and when it does rain it is often too heavy so washes away the crops. This has affected DMK and especially the cost of living and the their livestock with the knock on effect with local communities and Pastors. Please pray for the right amount of rain at the right time so crops can grow and livestock can be fed.

**Revd Michael Broadley**

The Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro [DMK]  
Link Officer

*The Anglican Church of Burundi*

**Church of England:** Diocese of Newcastle,  
Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley, Bishop Mark Wroe

**Church of Norway:**  
Diocese of More, Bishop Ingeborg Midttomme



## **MON 10 JULY** Diocese of Wyoming (see article on page 46)

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Uruguay (South America)

## **TUES 11 JULY**

*Belton, Diseworth, Hathern, Kegworth, Long Whatton and Osgathorpe.  
In vacancy, Louise Corke (C), Simon Stevens (PTO), Peter Yorkstone (PTO),  
Emily Sharman (C, Deanery Pioneer), Sue Hack (R), Tim Aldsworth (R)  
Belton, Diseworth, Hathern & Long Whatton CE Primary Schools*

In our vacancy, we give thanks for the strength of the Benefice in worshipping and working together. We pray for courage to trust God in daily witness in our 6 villages and for more informal Sunday gatherings each month.

Utah (Episcopal Church)

## **WED 12 JULY** The Barrow and Wolds Group

*Clive Watts, Fiona Cotton-Betteridge (C), Pam Knowles (R-PTO), Rex Shaw (R), Ron Hetherington (R-PTO), David Spencer (Associate Minister)*

*Barrow-upon-Soar CE Primary School; Wymeswold CE Primary School*

Please pray as we continue to develop our mission and ministry in this group of seven villages, and for our growing school's and children's work. Pray too for our local worship leaders, children and youth workers and our pastoral care team.

Uyo (Nigeria)

## **THURS 13 JULY**

*Community Cricket Day at Grace Road*

Valparaiso (Chile)

## **FRI 14 JULY** Castle Donington, and Lockington cum Hemington

*Andrew Race, Matt Green, Sue Forshaw, +Peter Fox, Catherine Stray, April Sly, Geoff Pinnington.  
St Edward's CE Primary School, Castle Donington*

We give thanks for the thriving monthly Breakfast Church and pray that the efforts of the recently formed Intergenerational Communities Action Group to connect with all the schools and reach the new housing estates will be blessed and bear fruit.

Vanuatu and New Caledonia (Melanisia)

## **SAT 15 JULY**

### **3 key questions - Loving service**

*Our third key question as a Diocese is: How are you serving your community, and enabling others to love and serve those around them?*

*God of all love, Who, in Christ, took on the role of a servant, Broke bread, served wine, washed feet, Healed and blessed, as he went, Shape us in your likeness.*

*Forgive us our instinct for self-preservation and for selective ignorance and angels whom we deny hospitality. Forgive us our hurry, which causes us to push aside what you would put before all else. Help our worshipping communities be known for shining light amidst darkness, for offering shelter amidst hostility, for sharing with others what we have received from you. Amen.*

Vellore (South India)



## Disability Awareness Day

*“Disability Awareness Day promotes a can do culture focusing on what disabled people **can** do throughout life and work.”*

For Christians a big part of our life is church, church family and using our giftings, what we **can** do, for the kingdom. This is just the same for disabled Christians as it is for non-disabled Christians. 1 Corinthians 12:5-6 teaches us that **every single person** has different gifts from God and that we are all called to serve and use those giftings. The bible has lots of disabled people in it who contributed to the history of God’s people. Let’s look at just a few and consider what we can learn from how God responded to them:

- Moses was too frightened to speak in front of Pharaoh because he had a speech defect (Exodus 4:10-16). God provided support for him in the form of his brother Aaron who was his spokesperson.
- Elijah had serious mental health problems. The day after his great triumph he was in hiding, suicidally depressed and begging God to take his life (1 Kings 19). God’s response was to provide him with food and a safe place to rest and to speak to him in a very gentle way.
- People believe that Nicodemus may well have been autistic. He had a very detailed and complete knowledge of Jewish law,

he came to Jesus in a quiet dark place, he struggled to understand the metaphor of being born again, he tried to save Jesus by using his knowledge. All of this falls into autistic characteristics.

Another autistic person in the bible is said to be the apostle Matthew.

- When Jesus is resurrected and returns to his disciples, they were scared, they had many doubts. Jesus said to Thomas “Put your finger here, see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side”. His hands, feet and side held the marks of significant physical disability. In the resurrected Christ we see a holy and whole yet disabled God. His injury is part of him. Not as a punishment, not as an opportunity for healing. The perfect, all powerful, all knowing Christ is resurrected with a disability.

*Dear God, thank you for the clear example of disability inclusion in the bible, for the challenge that sets us. We ask for your wisdom as we seek to challenge our own biases and prejudice. Help us to focus on the ‘can do’ culture and to recognise the giftings of every single person in your kingdom. We pray that our churches will be places where all people are able to fully belong and be active members of the church family. Amen.*

### **Emily Williams**

Disability Advisor

*The Anglican Church of Canada*

### **Church of Sweden:**

*Diocese of Skara, Bishop Ake Bonnier*

### **Church of England: Diocese of Leeds,**

*Bishop Nick Baines, Bishop Tony Robinson, vacancy – Bishop of Ripon, Bishop Toby Howarth, vacancy – Bishop of Huddersfield, Bishop Arun Arora*

## **MON 17 JULY** Diocese of Wyoming (see article on page 46)

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

*Venezuela (Episcopal Church)*

## **TUES 18 JULY** Emmanuel, Loughborough

**Michael Broadley, Alison (Ali) Walton, (Associate Rector), Kat Marjoribanks (Curate), Codra Spencer (R), Alex Howlett (R in training)**

**Loughborough CE Primary School**

Please pray for our church as we seek to grow in our discipleship of Jesus Christ through our Emmaus Groups. Give thanks for the Spark Club [essentially a Christian Union] at the Loughborough Church of England School. Please pray for us as we look to plant a new congregation into the Beacon Academy School.

*Vermont (Episcopal Church)*

## **WED 19 JULY** The Good Shepherd, Loughborough

**Michael Broadley (C), Tony Harper (R), Jackie Rotter (R-PTO)**

Give thanks for the "Your Store" and the Warm Hub especially for the service they have provided our local community over the past few months. Please pray for the development of the Fold [essentially a Messy Church]. Please also pray for the PCC as we discern a new vision for new growth.

*Victoria Nyanza (Tanzania)*

## **THURS 20 JULY**

**St Barnabas, Grange Park (BMO)**

**Ben Gardner (C), Paul Chung (R)**

Please pray that we would continue to grow and see more adult baptisms. Pray for our new STB Young Families Team (Chrissy, Helen, Pauline and the team) as they continue to reach out and disciple families on the estate.

*Virgin Islands (Episcopal Church)*

## **FRI 21 JULY** Loughborough All Saints with Holy Trinity

**Wendy Dalrymple, Liz Piki, Adebowale (Debo) Adelaja, (C), Penny Pullan (R) Bob Smith (R-PTO), Martyn Davison (R-PTO), David Newman (PTO)**

Pray for our newly appointed Children's Minister, Hannah Doit and pray that the right person will feel called to come and work with us as our new Intercultural Music Director.

*Virginia (Episcopal Church)*

## **SAT 22 JULY**

*Creator God, we thank and praise you for the beauty, wonder and diversity of the world you made. Help us to enjoy its beauty and care for its fragility, in the name of Christ. Amen.*

*Southern Virginia (Episcopal Church)*



Our link partners in the Church of South India, the Diocese of Trichy-Tanjore have recently refurbished the Casualty Block of their Mission Hospital at Worur, Trichy.

The hospital is one of two maintained by the Diocese and provides an essential service to supplement the provision of the state health service. In India, medical treatment is often out of the reach of those who most need it, due to the high payments required from patients. The Church is able to offer free or heavily-subsidised treatment to those affected by poverty, inadequate education and poor/insanitary living conditions. In addition, the Diocese runs a school for the training of nurses in the town of Dharapuram, where the second hospital is also situated. This latter serves a largely rural area in which lack of transport makes accessing hospital services even more of a challenge for many people.

Thanks to support from the Diocese of Leicester and our mutual partners in Wyoming, USA, the Trichy Diocese was also able to purchase an additional ambulance and supplies such as oxygen to treat those suffering from the effects of Covid-19.

Christian hospitals, along with schools, serve people in their communities regardless of religion or caste, thus providing a strong witness of inclusion in a country where there

are increasing pressures towards polarization between the many different faith groups.

Thinking of our partners in India, let us:

- Give thanks for the sacrificial witness of the Church in serving the most disadvantaged in their community;
- Pray for the healing of divisions in society and the growth of mutual understanding and respect;
- Seek forgiveness for the ways in which we marginalize those who are different from ourselves in their faith, educational attainment, state of health or social status.

In the photograph:

Bishop Chandrasekaran prepares to cut the tape and officially open the refurbished Casualty Block at the CSI Mission Hospital, Trichy.

**Jonathan Kerry**

Chief Executive, Diocesan Secretary and Cathedral Administrator  
Diocese of Leicester

*The Church of the Province of Central Africa*

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania:**

*Bishop Mindaugas Sabutis*

**Church of Ireland:**

*Diocese of Derry and Raphoe,*

*Bishop Andrew Foster*

## MON 24 JULY Diocese of Trichy (see article on page 36)

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

*Southwestern Virginia (Episcopal Church)*

## TUES 25 JULY St Mary in Charnwood, Nanpantan

*St Mary in Charnwood, Nanpantan*

*Adele Adshead (C), Richard Harries (R-PTO), Helena Wilkinson (R)*

Give thanks for all that God is doing at St Mary's. Please pray for the flourishing of community links and our vision to offer a safe and hospitable place where people might grow in the knowledge and love of God.

*West Virginia (Episcopal Church)*

## WED 26 JULY The South Croxton Benefice and the Burrough Hill Benefice

*Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:* Chief Executive's Office

Jonathan Kerry, Andy Brockbank, Claire Bampton & Lynn Gerighty

*Aotearoa (New Zealand)*

## THURS 27 JULY

*Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:* Archdeacons Office

Claire Wood, Richard Worsfold, Richard Trethewey & Wendy Dunnington

*Waikato and Taranaki (New Zealand)*

## FRI 28 JULY

*Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:* Property

Mark Jowsey, Lesley Whitwell & Dinta Chauhan

*Wandi (South Sudan)*

## SAT 29 JULY

*Diocesan Strategic Priorities - Intercultural Communities*

One of our priorities is to work towards better reflecting the communities around us, in all their many forms of diversity. Embracing the ethnic and cultural diversity within the Body of Christ makes the Church stronger and more faithful to its mission.

*God of all peoples, all nations, all cultures, Forgive us for where we mistake*

*'The way we do things around here' with Your way, and 'people who look like us',  
with your people. Forgive and free us of our prejudices, help us to seek your face*

*in those whom we have othered, and be open to blessings from those we have cursed. Heal and  
strengthen and equip your body to love and serve you,*

*in Jesus' name. Amen.*

*Wang Lei (South Sudan)*

## Minster Communities

The process of forming Minster Communities is one of Christian Discernment. Throughout the process we are using some Holy Habits to help us. One of these habits is an Examen. The Examen is a spiritual practise created by priest and theologian St Ignatius of Loyola in the 16th century. It is a prayer of thankful reflection. A tool to walk through the recent past with God, noticing and naming God's presence in joyful and difficult moments, and a way of asking God to help resolve how to live well in the future.

We are aware that there are lots of worshipping communities that are waiting to be part of Minster Community formation, and with that may come lots of different emotions. It may be that there are a lot of worries and fears along with excitement and hope.

God is at work across our diocese, in places where Minster Communities are forming and those waiting to find out what is next. If we look, we can see glimpses of God's glory all around us, and that helps us to step out in faith because we know that God is with us.

So why not use these words of Examen now and take a moment to reflect on where God is at work in your life, thank God for the glimpses of glory that you have seen, share your fears and hopes with God and ask for peace and blessing.

### A PRAYER FOR SHAPED BY GOD TOGETHER

Eternal God,  
You call your people to fullness of life in you  
and promise to be with us  
in all the changing scenes of life:  
may we be shaped by you in our lives  
and communities to refresh the Church,  
transform the world, and build the kingdom,  
as with thanksgiving for the past,  
we step out in hope and trust into your future;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

1. Where have we seen a glimpse of glory?  
Our response is thanksgiving.
2. What is troubling us?  
Our response is to ask for peace.
3. What are we hoping for?  
Our response is to seek God's blessing.

### Beth Cleur

PTMD Mission and Communications Officer

*The Anglican Church of Central America*

**Church of England:** Diocese of Bristol,  
Bishop Vivienne Faull, Bishop Lee Rayfield

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:**  
Diocese of Helsinki, Bishop Teemu Laajasalo

## MON 31 JULY Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro (see article on page 32)

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Wagaratta (Australia)

## TUES 1 AUG

**Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:** Church Buildings Team

Gill Elliott, Rupert Allen & Simon Headley.

Wanyjok (South Sudan)

## WED 2 AUG

**Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:** IT – Phil Ash.

Warri (Nigeria)

## THURS 3 AUG

**Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:** Finance

Simon Wilson, Jim Pullen, Adil Qassam, Sonal Pankhania & Sally Taylor.

Washington (Episcopal Church)

## FRI 4 AUG

**Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:** Parish Transition & Ministry Development Team

Stuart Burns, Liz Rawlings & Claire Stapleton.

Wau (South Sudan)

## SAT 5 AUG

### **Diocesan Strategic Priorities - Intergenerational Communities**

We have made Intergenerational Communities a priority within the Shaped By God Together process to inspire, equip, and support local leaders to facilitate intergenerational worship experiences, learning spaces and serving opportunities. This will, we believe, bless not just children and young people, but those of all ages.

*God of all generations, who, in Christ, revealed yourself to Simeon and Anna and welcomed the little children, thank you that you make yourself known to us whatever our age or stage, and that you have made us with gifts to pass between generations. Bless those who in our Diocese seek to bring together people of different ages to learn, love and serve well together. Help us to guide people on the way of Christ, no matter how far along they are on the journey. Amen.*

Wellington (New Zealand)



Bishop Isaiah asks for prayer for the children's work in Kiteto. This goes further than the ongoing work running junior and secondary schools that is so vital. It is also the diocese's commitment to engage with all young people whatever their circumstances, helping them to grow in love and peace by showing God's love in action.

Please pray that work trying to build links between schools in our respective dioceses is fruitful.

Kiteto Diocese is trying to serve two groups of people, nomadic pastoralists, like the Maasai, and settled farmers from other tribes. The pressures of population growth and climate change mean that these groups can come into conflict over land and access to it. Please pray for the church as it seeks to work for just access to resources for all and for wisdom in its engagement with these potentially competing groups of believers.

Please continue to pray for the work of the eye clinic. Give thanks that they have recently been successful in teaming up with a UK charity who can supply them with the equipment and medicines they need for their crucial eyesight saving work. Please pray for Sister Saraweki as she trains and supports the next generation of staff to continue the service.

Please pray for the work of pastors like Rev Daniel Mussa Jibo as he seeks to develop theological education, especially that they can develop the building they need to support the work.

Finally, the environment of Kiteto is vulnerable to climate change, causing changes in the rainy seasons which directly damages people's ability to grow their own food. These effects are already being seen. Please pray for work to mitigate this and for our world to act decisively before it is too late.

**David Shepherd**  
Diocese of Kiteto Link Officer

*The Anglican Church in Congo*

**Church of England:** *Diocese of Portsmouth,  
Bishop Jonathan Frost*

**Church of Sweden:** *Diocese of Stockholm,  
Bishop Andreas Holmberg*

## MON 7 AUG Diocese of Wyoming (see article on page 46)

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

*Wernyol (South Sudan)*

## TUES 8 AUG

**Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:** Parish Transition & Ministry Development Team  
Jon Barrett, Beth Cluer, Gemma Starkings

*Wiawso (West Africa)*

## WED 9 AUG

**Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:** Parish Transition & Ministry Development Team  
Rob Hay, Matt Long, Sue Willetts, Jonathan Dowman.

*Willochra (Australia)*

## THURS 10 AUG

**Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:** Parish Transition & Ministry Development Team  
Claire Bampton, Paul Whalley & Abbie Allen.

*Winchester (England)*

## FRI 11 AUG

**Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:** Resourcing Churches  
Barry Hill & Alastair Michaelwaite

*Windward Islands (West Indies)*

## SAT 12 AUG

### **Diocesan Strategic Priorities - Communities**

As we look to fulfil our vision of the Kingdom of God we seek not only the renewal of our existing churches and fresh expressions but also to create and grow new communities so that we can reach and serve more people who wouldn't otherwise 'do' Church.

*God of new beginnings, you are making yourself known in all times and places,  
Not just within our churches or during our services. Bless and equip, refresh and inspire the pioneers  
in our Diocese and those whom you are calling to this ministry.*

*We thank you for the work of our Resource Churches and how their confidence in you gives them the  
courage to plant, rather than conserve. Bless us with your creativity and imagination as we explore  
new ways to share your timeless love.*

*In Jesus' name. Amen.*

*Wonduruba (South Sudan)*



**A new sculpture:** what happens when a church needs a new sculpture for their St John Chapel? – A need which arose last year at St Andrew’s, Jarrom Street.

The parish priest, Fr. Johannes Arens, sent an email, asking if I, as a wood-carver, was interested. I couldn’t get the thought out of my mind and spirit that night. And set about thinking what I would have to do to create a suitable image.

For the past twenty-five or so years, I have hoarded a piece of yew tree trunk in my workshop with another sculpture in mind, but which there never was time to start. So I had a well-seasoned and potentially beautiful object to work. I began to research the tradition of carvings of St John the Evangelist, making sure that it wasn’t St John the Baptist who was required (pace Donatello’s famous image in Florence). I found that he (the Evangelist) was always depicted as young and clean-shaven, with curly hair (Tilman Riemenschneider, the Austrian sculptor, shows him with a particularly baroque mass of curls). There is also a painting by Albrecht Dürer with the same kind of appearance but older.

I found some wallpaper which needed recycling and started making sketches. Then I looked around the congregation at St Andrew’s for a model, and saw our curly-headed thurifer, Tony Simons, and asked if he wouldn’t mind sitting for me. He agreed enthusiastically. I needed to get the proportions as correct as possible, given the constraints of the wood, but the right arm of St John must surely be over his heart for he is the Apostle of Love par excellence. In my drawing his left arm indicates below some of the physical illustrations of the great “I am” sayings in St John’s Gospel.

“I am” reminds us of the voice of God from the Burning Bush in the Moses stories (Exodus 3). Moses, scared at the prospect of telling Pharaoh he must free the Enslaved Israelites, says, “Who shall I say sent me?” And God replies, “Tell them that I AM has sent you to them.” So when Jesus uses the term ‘I am’, we may safely conclude that these sayings have some kind of divine commission. “I am the Bread of Life” refers to the Eucharist. “I am the door of the sheepfold” indicates that it is through Jesus that we are brought into relationship with God. “I am the true vine” is the claim St John puts into the mouth of Jesus, meaning that he embodies the full spiritual heritage of the Chosen People.

Another, most important ‘I AM’ saying is, “I AM the Resurrection and the Life”. St John’s Gospel 1:36 also records the witness of John the Baptist to Christ, when he said: “There is the Lamb of God”. Of course, all of these sayings may be used as effective prayer pointers. The carving itself has a long way to go.

**The Revd David Clark**  
PTO

*The Anglican Church in Chile*

**Church of Ireland:** Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, Bishop Ferran Glenfield

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:** Diocese of Aarhus, Bishop Henrik Wigh-Poulsen

## **MON 14 AUG** Diocese of Kiteto (see article on page 40)

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

*Worcester (England)*

## **TUES 15 AUG**

**Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:** IWC Team

Jessie Tang, Luke Fogg, Dinta Chauhan & Lesley Whitwell.

*Fort Worth (Episcopal Church)*

## **WED 16 AUG**

**Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:** Generous Giving

Phil Leech & Ariel Baker.

*Wulu (South Sudan)*

## **THURS 17 AUG**

**Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:** Safeguarding

Rachael Spiers, Julie Foulds, Peter Holloway & Louise Warner.

*Wusasa (Nigeria)*

## **FRI 18 AUG**

**Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:** DBE

Carolyn Lewis, Nina Radford, Tracey Manns & Lindsey Bowe.

*Wyoming (Episcopal Church)*

## **SAT 19 AUG**

*Yambio (South Sudan)*



see article on page 42



### International Day of Remembrance of the Slave Trade & its Abolition

*Slave Market Memorial at Stone Town in Zanzibar, Tanzania*

23rd August is the International Day of Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, and we are invited to mark it on Sunday 20th August this year. The date was chosen because during the night of 22nd to 23rd August 1791, the beginning of an uprising of slaves took place in Haiti, which was to play a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

Why does this matter to the CofE? What does the slave trade and its abolition have to do with parish churches in Leicestershire? It's all so long ago, why do we still have to talk about it?

The hard truth is, that the CofE owned slaves and was paid reparations, when they were finally freed in 1833 and as a result, we are to this day financially profiting of the slaves we once owned. The history of cattle slavery and the transatlantic slave trade is irrevocably part of our story as the CofE. We cannot close our eyes to the sins that were committed against God and the precious human beings, made in the image of God, who were dehumanised and enslaved with the backing of the CofE and even by the CofE.

By the nature of who we are as church, we are deeply connected to past, present and future. When celebrating the Eucharist together each week, the priest says at the breaking of the bread: "We break this bread to share in the body of Christ." And the congregation responds: "Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread." The Church is Christ's body, as we share in bread and wine, we are united with Him and with each other in the body of Christ. It is a mysterious, wonderful and miraculous body. It unites us with our siblings all around the world, as well as with those who went before us and those who are yet to come. We are one body through time and space in Jesus Christ. We cannot wash our hands of the sins our siblings committed in the past and we cannot ignore the pain and suffering caused by these sins to our siblings.

So, what can we do? A first step is to educate ourselves. Why not sign up for the unconscious-bias and anti-racism training the diocese offers? Maybe find a podcast on black theology or read a book on the history of black people in Britain. Understanding the hurt that has been caused is a first step towards a different future where healing and reconciliation become possible.

#### **Revd Manuela Schmucki**

Member of Racial Equity Unit  
Curate at Leicester Cathedral

The Church of England

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:**  
Diocese of Espoo, Bishop Kaisamari Hintikka

**Scottish Episcopal Church:**  
Diocese of Edinburgh, Bishop John Armes

## MON 21 AUG Diocese of Trichy (see article on page 36)

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

Yangon (Myanmar)

## TUES 22 AUG

**Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:** Social Responsibility

Richard Worsfold, Florence Gildea, Alison Adams, Emily Williams & Rebecca Rawley and all the panel members.

Yei (South Sudan)

## WED 23 AUG

International Day of Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition (see article on page 44 Sunday 20th August 2023)

Yeri (South Sudan)

## THURS 24 AUG

**Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:** Leicester Cathedral Clergy

Karen Rooms, Alison Adams, Emma Davies, Manuela Schmucki & Julia Bradshaw.

Yewa (Nigeria)

## FRI 25 AUG

**Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:** Cathedral Administration

Aabeda Choksi, Aadaeze Ebodili, Rebecca Hale, Andrew Radford, David Pepworth, Simon Bentley, Trevor Peel, Mary Green, Vanessa Li, Jude Taylor & Louise Davies.

Yirol (South Sudan)

## SAT 26 AUG

**Diocesan Strategic Priorities - Reconciling Communities**

One of our strategic objectives is for our worshipping communities to become Reconciling Communities – places where people share the love of God across difference, and experience the restoration of relationships with others, with themselves, with creation, and with God.

*Triune God, in you, diversity and unity come together seamlessly. But in our churches, in our homes and in our communities, there are fractures. Sometimes we exclude or disown; at other times, we keep at arm's length and substitute love for tolerance. Teach us what it means to be one as Father and Son are one. Give us the forbearance to seek peace over victory, the strength to let go of grudges and the courage to give and receive forgiveness, In the name of Christ. Amen.*

Yokohama (Japan)



## the Episcopal Church in Wyoming

### Diocese of Wyoming

- Prayers of thanksgiving for the Call of a new Dean to St. Matthew's Cathedral. That he may grow the Cathedral in depth and breadth and increase it's footprint in the Laramie community and around the Diocese of Wyoming.
- Prayers for the Grounded Exhibition; 'Restoring our world through a Sacred Harmony' with the earth and each other - an exhibition of 15 exceptional indigenous American contemporary artists from 8 tribes in and around the Great Plains.
- Prayers that we may continue initiating dialogues around the diocese which support the work of racial reconciliation and honest truth-telling during this time of great division in our nation.
- After an epic snowy Wyoming winter, prayers for safety of property and lives as the potential of spring flooding starts to occur in many of our communities.
- Prayers for continued viability of the Episcopal Service Corps, empowering young leaders for justice. Special prayers for our On Sacred Ground Wyoming Service Corps in Cody.
- Prayers for a successful first-time event - Wyoming School of Earth and Soul - Celtic Wisdom: Sacred Soul with John Philip Newell - May 5-7, 2023 - Ucross, Wyoming.
- Safe travels for Bishop Paul-Gordon and Lynne as they continue their parish visitations every week.

***The Rev. Canon Bobbe Fitzhugh***

Canon for Mission, Outreach and Evangelism

The Episcopal Church in Wyoming

## MON 28 AUG Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro (see article on page 32)

### Diocese of Kiteto

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in our partner diocese.

**Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:** Cathedral Operations  
Bev Collett, Les Mitchelmore and Carys Underdown.

Yola (Nigeria)

## TUES 29 AUG

**Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:** Cathedral Music  
Christopher Ouvry-Johns, David Cowan, Rosie Vinter & Keziah Leonard.

York (England)

## WED 30 AUG

### Bishop's Leadership Team Meeting

**Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:** St Martin's House  
Nigel Jobson, James Hayter, Danni Blair and Janette Sturgis.

Ysabel (Melanesia)

## THURS 31 AUG

**Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:** Bishop's Lodge  
+Martyr, +Saju, Ellie Cox (Tabz Fogg maternity cover),  
Peter Collett, Florence Gildea, Jo Griffin & James Pickersgill.

### **Diocesan Strategic Priorities - Eco Communities**

The Church of England has committed to becoming net zero by 2030, and as part of that, we are striving to reduce the environmental impact of our buildings and activities, and encouraging worshipping communities to become Eco Churches

*Almighty God, you created the world and gave it into our care so that, in obedience to you, we might serve all people: Inspire us to use the riches of creation with wisdom, and to ensure that their blessings are shared by all; That, trusting in your bounty, all people may be empowered to seek freedom from poverty, famine, and oppression. In the name of Christ. **Amen.***

Yukon (Canada)

## THE BIBLE IS GOOD NEWS...



I would like to share something that sits heavily on my heart. As the Deaf Development Worker for the Diocese of Leicester, my passion is to equip people on their faith journey outside of church and bible study sessions.

### **The Bible is Good News...**

- ...it is vital to our faith journey
- ...it tells us about God
- ...it tells us about God's love for us
- ...it transforms our lives

But sadly thousands of people in the UK still don't have access to the bible in their own language.

### **Who?**

The members of the Deaf community who use British Sign Language (BSL); it's important to note English and BSL are two very different languages.

### **No one should have to learn a second language to receive God's Word.**

There is some good news, the BSL Bible translation project, set up in Sept 2006. This project draws people together with the necessary skills to create a brand new Bible version in a signed video format. The BSL Bible expresses the belief that God's Word should be received 'in the language of the people'. To date they have now completed Mark chapters 1 - 10. A team is working to complete the book of Mark and another team is working on Genesis. The process for translation is stringent and must be so.

\*Funding and capacity delays this vital work\*

FACT : the USA have finally completed their American Sign Language bible after 38 years!! Unfortunately they sign differently. Sign language is like spoken language – it's not universal.

How can we help? Let us pray for the team working on the project, that they may be equipped with the volunteers and staff required to undertake the translation processes. For the finances and administration to run the project. May God bless this project abundantly, that we will see this translation completed within this decade! Well before I retire at least.

*Father we thank you, for the service of all the bible translators, who have worked hard and some who have even fought to translate your word into a whole array of accessible formats and languages for your people since 1382 when John Wyclife first translated the Bible from Latin to English. Thank you for their obedience and service, we pray that no one will be excluded from accessing your word. In Jesus name. Amen.*

For more information please visit [www.bslbible.org.uk](http://www.bslbible.org.uk).  
Email [info@bslbible.org.uk](mailto:info@bslbible.org.uk)  
charity number 1119990

### **Karen Sly**

Deaf Development Worker  
for the Diocese of Leicester

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK



### Mental Health Awareness Week

How is your wellbeing this Mental Health Awareness week? The Five Ways to Wellbeing can be a helpful way to think about that and what we can do to build better habits of wellbeing. We can think about:

- How are we connecting with others and being part of life-giving communities?
- What new things are we learning to build our brain power, learn new skills, join in with fun hobbies.
- How are we getting active? Whether it's going for a swim, dancing or just a walk. Moving our bodies can move our mood and getting outside in nature helps too.
- When are we taking notice of the world around us? Noticing the small joys and beauties of our world can cheer us up, saying thank you for the blessings we see helps shift our focus.
- What are we giving? Can we give some time or resources to help someone near us?

God is interested in our wellbeing too – the word often used in the bible, peace, is actually from a Hebrew word meaning wholeness of body, mind and spirit and it's his desire for every human being.

**Renew Wellbeing** is a national charity that supports churches across the UK to open spaces where "It's OK not to be OK". Based around the 5 Ways to Wellbeing, Renew spaces work on three simple principles: **being prayerful, being present and being in partnership**. Prayer is the very heartbeat of every Renew space. We share how to open

prayer spaces for both church and community and teach rhythms of prayer that enable churches to share our primary language with all. Renew trains and resources churches where needed and offers ongoing encouragement and advice for a shared journey of sustained prayerful habits for wellbeing. Each Renew space is run by a local church who give their time to be present and share hobbies and skills in a homely welcoming space, establishing good partnerships with statutory services and other agencies so that additional support can be found.

You can find out more at [www.renewwellbeing.org.uk](http://www.renewwellbeing.org.uk)

### Prayer points

- Pray for all those who struggle with their mental health and for their families and friends who support them, for those who are lonely and isolated
- Pray for the wellbeing, the shalom, of the people of Leicestershire and those who work to build it up in the NHS, Mental health services and the voluntary sector.
- Give thanks for the strong partnership with Leicestershire County Council and the Renew spaces in Leicestershire.
- Pray for the Renew spaces in Leicestershire (Hugglescote, Sutton in the Elms, Fleckney, Market Harborough, Newbold Verdon, Ashby de la Zouch) and for other churches thinking about how they can respond to support wellbeing in their communities.
- A prayer:  
*May the God of all peace make us whole and holy  
May He keep us safe, body, mind and spirit  
He has called us  
He is faithful  
He will do it. Amen.*

**Sarah Fegredo**  
Renew Wellbeing

