

PRAYER DIARY

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2025



Diocese of
Leicester

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

Retreats

at Launde Abbey 2025

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

Launde Abbey, East Norton
Leicestershire LE7 9XB

SEPTEMBER

- 01 - 04 *THE PRACTICE OF JOY: CS LEWIS RETREAT*
Led by Andrew Swinford
- 19 - 21 *BEGINNERS RETREAT*
Led by The Launde Abbey Community

OCTOBER

- 06 - 09 *ROOTED AND GROUNDED:
GOING DEEPER INTO SPIRITUAL PRACTICE*
Led by Launde Abbey and Renovaré
- 13 - 15 *REDISCOVERING THE ANCIENT PATHS
WITH BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX*
Led by Jenny Campbell
- 20 - 23 *STEPPING INTO THE BIBLE*
Led by Peter Sills
- 28 - 31 *LIVING WITH LOSS*
Led by Abi May

NOVEMBER

- 11 - 14 *LOOK AT THE BIRDS:
A BIRDWATCHING RETREAT'*
Led by Dale Hanson
- 14 - 16 *MEDITATION & THE CONTEMPORARY
WISDOM OF MEISTER ECKHART RETREAT*
*Led by Chris Whittington of the School
of Contemplative Life*
- 17 - 20 *LIVING, BREATHING, AND MOVING:
CONNECTING WITH GOD WITH OUR
WHOLE BODY*
Led by Hope Stockman and Rhona Knight
- 30 - 04 Dec *ADVENT WITH THE
LAUNDE ABBEY COMMUNITY*
Led by the Launde Abbey Community

DECEMBER

- 08 - 12 *ICON PAINTING RETREAT*
Led by Peter Murphy
- 09 - 12 *'THE 'I AM' SAYINGS'*
Led by Chris and Rhona Knight


Launde Abbey
prayer • hospitality • community • sanctuary

FOREWORD FROM THE
BISHOP OF LOUGHBOROUGH



Meadow Pipit



Common Snipe 🟡



Eurasian Oystercatcher



Common Chaffinch



Ring-necked Pheasant ●



Willow Warbler



Eurasian Skylark

Prayer isn't an escape. It's entry into the ache and joy of the world. It is a doorway into God's presence, whose life and work are reshaping the world for the sake of the Kingdom. The early church knew this. In Acts, they prayed like breath — constant, urgent, alive. Not because they had answers but because they knew the One who does.

Walter Brueggemann speaks of life in three movements: orientation, disorientation, and reorientation. Prayer walks that path. It steadies us when the ground shifts. It holds us when the map tears. It leads us when the way bends.

May this diary be a companion, a space to lean, to learn and to listen. To join the quiet revolution of those who believe God is not done. Not with the world. Not with us. So, pray. God is near. And the Kingdom is unfolding — right where we are.

+ Saju Loughborough

+Saju Muthalaly

Bishop of Loughborough

(written, photographed and Merlin bird sound recording taken on an Isle of Muck retreat – June 2025)



Welcome to the new edition of the diocesan prayer diary, which takes us through from the thanksgiving of Creationtide and Harvest, through the Season of Remembrance, on into Advent, arriving into the season of Christmas when we celebrate the miracle of our Saviour's birth.

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) – 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.

We have also added on a Monday the places on the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle from the World Council of Churches; these will be prefixed by **EPC** - The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle | World Council of Churches (oikoumene.org). In addition to Principal Feasts, Holy Days & Festivals, we have also added Lesser Festivals and also Commemorations from the Common Worship Lectionary, all in **bold** type.

The key to the parish entries is as follows:
C = Clergy; GFM = Growing Faith Minister;
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
or phone 0116 270 3390 or send it
c/o Bishop's Lodge, 12 Springfield Road,
Leicester, LE2 3BD.

Additionally, if you know of anyone else who would like to receive a paper copy of this publication, then please contact James Pickersgill, Bishop's Chaplain as below. It can also be downloaded from <https://www.leicester.anglican.org/everyday-faith/prayer-diary/prayer-diary>

We are very grateful as always to Revd Canon Brian Davis for his work on gathering parish prayer requests, to Peter Collett, Gemma Starkings and Steve O'Rourke for their on-going assistance and to all our contributors as always in this edition. To the best of our knowledge, all details are correct at the time of publication.

MON 1 SEPT Diocese of Kiteto

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

Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:

For all who minister through our Cathedral Clergy Team.

Giles; Hermit, c.710

Oji River (Nigeria)

TUES 2 SEPT

Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:

For all who minister through our Cathedral Verger and Welcome Teams.

Martyrs of Papua New Guinea; 1901, 1942

Okene (Nigeria)

WEDS 3 SEPT

Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:

For all who minister through our Cathedral Music Team.

Gregory the Great; Bishop, Teacher of the Faith, 604

*O good Jesus, Word of the Father and brightness of his glory,
whom angels desire to behold: teach me to do your will
that, guided by your Spirit, I may come to that blessed city of
everlasting day, where all are one in heart and mind,
where there is safety and eternal peace, happiness and delight,
where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, world without end.
Amen.*

Oke-Ogun (Nigeria)

THURS 4 SEPT

Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:

For all who minister through our Cathedral Administration Team.

Birinus; Bishop, 650

Oke-Osun (Nigeria)

FRI 5 SEPT

Diocesan Staff Cycle of Prayer:

For all who minister through our Cathedral Chaplaincy Team.

Okigwe (Nigeria)

SAT 6 SEPT

Allen Gardiner; Missionary, Founder of the South American Mission Society, 1851.

Okigwe South (Nigeria)



PEACE WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2025

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)

Creationtide is a month of unity where Christians from around the world celebrate the wonderful creation which we are part of, and look to care for our common home. This year, we are called to be peacemakers with creation, all people and God.

The prophet Isaiah pictured the desolated Creation without peace because of the lack of justice and the broken relationship between God and humankind (Isaiah 32:14-18). This description of devastated cities and wastelands eloquently stresses the fact that human destructive behaviours have a negative impact on the Earth. We see this destruction around us in climate chaos as wildfires spread, floods rise, storms rage and droughts devastate; this is echoed in global biodiversity loss, sea-level rise, plastic pollution and increased migration from uninhabitable lands. Broken relationships are further exacerbated by political inaction and wilful destruction.

As people of faith, we are called to be peacemakers where we seek reconciliation between the broken land and humanity, who were blessed to care for all creation. In this we have hope – a hope, based on the reconciliation of all things to God by Jesus, that creation will find peace when justice is restored. To hope in

a biblical context does not mean to stand still and feel sad or overwhelmed, but to act, pray, change, and reconcile with Creation and the Creator in unity, repentance and solidarity.

This Creationtide:

- Lament for the destruction we see;
- Pray for God's peace where there is suffering because of climate change;
- Pray for God's peace within decisions made by governments and multinational companies;
- Pray for God's peace within the Church of England's Net Zero Carbon project;
- And become an Eco Peacemaker by supporting and championing your church's Eco Church journey and your local community.

Anne Scott

Deputy Diocesan Environmental Officer

Church of England:

Diocese of Salisbury, Bishop Stephen Lake,
Bishop Andrew Rumsey, Bishop Karen Gorham

Church of Wales:

Diocese of St Asaph, Bishop Gregory Cameron

EPC: Benin, Ivory Coast, Togo

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

MON 8 SEPT Diocese of Wyoming

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

Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Accession of King Charles III, 2022

Okinawa (Japan)

TUES 9 SEPT

Charles Fuge Lowder; Priest, 1880

Oklahoma (U.S.A)

WED 10 SEPT

World Suicide Prevention Day

<https://www.samaritans.org/support-us/campaign/world-suicide-prevention-day/>

Okrika (Nigeria)

THURS 11 SEPT

The Woodfield Team

Rick Tett (C), Debbie Kent (R), Norma Morris-Chapman (R-PTO), Derek Tomlin (R-PTO), Elisabeth Harrison (Evng), David Harrison (Evng), Judy Selby (PA), Joan Smith (PA-PTO)

St John Moore CE Primary School, Appleby Magna

Snarestone, Measham & Packington CE Primary Schools

During the past 6 weeks, five candidates for confirmation have been attending classes, please pray for them and their families as they prepare for confirmation in October.

Oleh (Nigeria)

FRI 12 SEPT

Whitwick, Thringstone & Swannington

Darren Walker (C) Terri Skinner (C-PTO) Brian Skinner (AM)

St. John the Baptist School (CoE), Swannington School (CoE), Thringstone County Primary, New Swannington School, Griffydam Primary School

Please pray for our continued outreach into our schools and wider community. Including Muddy Church Whitwick and Welcome Church Thringstone.

Olo (South Sudan)

SAT 13 SEPT

John Chrysostom; Bishop, Teacher of the Faith, 407

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfil now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Olympia (U.S.A)



There are lots of reasons to be disheartened and discouraged within the education system; a SEND crisis meaning that pupils often do not always get the support they desperately need, decreasing pupil numbers causing uncertainty for the smallest schools and increasingly difficult financial situations. Schools can be very difficult places to work; staff often feel like they are spinning lots of plates, and sometimes perhaps feel like that is not always happening successfully. And yet, despite that rather bleak picture, there is joy to be found everyday within school halls, within classrooms and out in the school playground. As schools start back after a long summer break, there will be excitement in the reunion of friends who may not have seen each other for 6 weeks, Collective Worships speaking of hope and dreams for the year ahead and teachers working hard to ensure that the plans for the new year are in place and offer a wide variety of opportunities for children and young people. In the middle of difficult circumstances and struggles, we can always experience joy and gratitude for the things in front of us, if we choose to focus on it. Within Church of England Schools, pupils and staff experience distinctively Christian worship where they get to experience something of the person of Jesus Christ every single day. That is no small thing! Jesus Christ, who came into a world of brokenness and division to save it and



bring hope, is the same person who our pupils and staff get to hear about every day. It is comforting, therefore, that in the difficulties that schools do face, there is a message of hope that is portrayed and the invitation to explore a God who is for them and not against them. Verse 8 from Psalm 16 below, reminds us of the confidence that can be had when we have the message of God in our hearts and minds.

I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Prayer points

- For all school leaders – that they will have strength and compassion at the start of a new academic year.
- That everyone within school communities feel hopeful for the new year ahead and see the joy that can be found every day.
- For all schools facing difficulties in the year ahead – pray for wisdom as decisions are made and navigated.

Tracey Manns

Diocesan Deputy Director of Education

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:

Diocese of Ribe, Bishop Elof Westergaard

Church of England: Diocese of Bath and Wells, Bishop Michael Beasley, Bishop Ruth Worsley

EPC: Ghana, Nigeria

Holy Cross Day (PF)

The Anglican Church of South America

MON 15 SEPT Diocese of Trichy

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

Cyprian; Bishop, Martyr, 258.

Omu-Aran (Nigeria)

TUES 16 SEPT Ashby de la Zouch & Breedon on the Hill

Sue Field, Tim Phillips (C), Sue Brown (R-PTO), Elizabeth Smith (R), Stephen Clowes (R), Judith Lewis (R), Andy Smith (R), Clergy with PtO - John Allan, Richard Andrews, Stephen Brooks Viscount Beaumont's School, Coleorton, St Hardulph's School, Breedon on the Hill, Newbold CE Primary School

Give thanks for the various new outreach activities – Transforming Lives for Good (early intervention coaching for primary school children), Sunday Soirees (combining Choral Evensong with a recital) – and pray for new paid staff within the Benefice – Tim, Rosemary and Sara.

Ninian; Bishop, Aopstle of the Picts, c.432

Edward Bouverie Pusey; Priest, 1882

Ondo (Nigeria)

WED 17 SEPT Matthias the Apostle (PF)

**Christ the Redeemer, Blackfordby & Woodville
Blossom Thompson (PA)**

Blackfordby & Woodville CE Primary and Junior schools

We give thanks for all the priests leading our services since we went into interregnum. We give thanks that we are able to continue supporting our local community through St Stephen's Food Bank. We pray for financial help to repair St Stephen's church.

Hildegard; Abbess, Visionary, 1179

Ontario (Canada)

THURS 18 SEPT Guthlaxton Deanery

Area Dean: Nigel Byard (Lutterworth), Assistant Area-Deans: Sr Liz Heaton & Richard Reakes.

Lay Chair: Phil Leech

Guthlaxton Deanery Synod is currently discussing Minster Communities and how we can grow our mission and ministry across the area. Our Deanery Synod on the 28th of October is a good opportunity to meet and share news about all that God is doing in our Deanery.

Oregon (U.S.A)

FRI 19 SEPT

PTO Clergy Guthlaxton Deanery: Rod Allard, Terry Colling, Myrtle Cook, Mick Gillespie, Victor Goodman, David Hebblewhite, Paula Oxley & Andy Rhoades.

Youth Mental Health Day

<https://stem4.org.uk/youthmentalhealthday/>

Theodore; Archbishop, 690

Eastern Oregon (U.S.A)

SAT 20 SEPT

John Coleridge Patteson; Bishop, 1871

Orlu (Nigeria)

SUNDAY 21 SEPT FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT



Fairtrade Fortnight:

22nd September until 5th October

"Since Jesus asks us as Christians to love our neighbours as ourselves, and our neighbour is any other human being with whom we come into contact, the demand to love must prevail when we shop."

It comes down to this. When we buy any product, we're not just buying a thing on a shelf. Behind it are people – the people who grew, processed, and crafted what we see. We come into contact with them even if we will never directly meet them. They are our neighbours.

That means we have to care about their lives – were they paid enough for their work? Do their families have access to schooling and food? Are they free to ask for good working conditions? Protected from environmental harm? If we love our neighbours, we need to do everything we can to ensure that the answer to these questions is 'yes'.

Fair Trade is one way of caring. During Fairtrade Fortnight, 22 September – 5 October, our churches can explore what Fairtrade is and does, celebrate what it's accomplished, pray for it, encourage people to get involved – and enjoy wonderful Fairtrade products.

We can celebrate the Fortnight by committing or recommitting to be a Fairtrade place of worship. There are only two criteria:

1. To use Fairtrade products wherever possible (at least tea, coffee and sugar) and share information about Fairtrade products with the wider congregation.

2. To integrate Fairtrade into the life of our places of worship, at Fairtrade Fortnight or other times of the year, for example through events, stalls and worship.

Prayer for us to be agents of change:

Dear Lord, please give us hearts yearning for the changes that manifest your Kingdom: justice in matters large and small, the love that cares for neighbours, a closer walk with you as we follow your ways. Amen.

Dear Lord, please give us minds that strive to understand, your Word and our world so that we can hear your call in the situations we encounter and the choices we have to make. Amen.

Dear Lord, please give us eyes that see the world as you do, lips that speak words of truth and love, hands and feet that take action, and strength to persevere that, changed by your Spirit, we may become agents of change, through whom you reveal your Kingdom for the honour and glory of your name. Amen.

Peter Yates

Social Responsibility Panel

International Day of Peace

<https://internationaldayofpeace.org/>

Church of England: Diocese of Sheffield,

Bishop Pete Wilcox, Bishop Sophie Jelley

Church of Greenland: Diocese of Greenland

within the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark, Bishop Paneeraq Siegstad Munk

EPC: Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay

Matthew; Apostle and Evangelist (PF)

*Province of the Episcopal Church
of South Sudan*

MON 22 SEPT Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

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

Oru (Nigeria)

TUES 23 SEPT

Four Saints (Countesthorpe, Foston, Willoughby Waterleys & Peatling Magna)

Richard Reakes, Cam Wiltshire - Plant (Curate) (C), Rod Allard (C PTO), Mick Gillespie (C PTO), June Ainge (R/Pio) Mike Oates (R), Lindsey Jelves (R), Helen Stokes (R), Gail Mackley (PA), Jacqui McAughey (AM)

Give thanks that The Revd Cameron Wiltshire-Plant has recently been priested. The benefice has also hosted a week of mission. We continue to build our relationships between our four churches with an eye on how these will help us form our Minster Community.

Osaka (Japan)

WED 24 SEPT Hexagon Benefice

Arnesby & Husbands Bosworth CE Primary Schools

We are encouraged by God working in our two schools. In one the Open The Book team is greatly appreciated; in another they have been inspired by a conversation about Preaching Crosses. A place where children can go and pray to share their hopes, fears, anxieties, and joys with God.

Osun (Nigeria)

THURS 25 SEPT

Blaby

David Hebblewhite & Carol Lacey (PTO), Blaby Stokes CE Primary School

Please pray for our Churchwardens (Mike & Mick) & PCC, and PTO clergy (Carol & David) who are covering services whilst we are in vacancy. Give thanks for outreach through Cafe Church, Open Church and work with our church school, Blaby Stokes.

Lancelot Andrewes; Bishop, Spiritual Write, 1626

Sergei of Radonezh; Monastic Reformer, Teacher of the Faith, 1392

Osun North (Nigeria)

FRI 26 SEPT

European Day of Langauges

<https://edl.ecml.at/en/>

Wilson Carlile; Founder of the church Army, 1942

God of boundless energy and light: We thank you for the courage and passion of Wilson Carlile who, after the example of your Son, sought new ways to open your Church to diverse leaders as beacons of the Gospel of Christ. Quicken our hearts to give bold witness to Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Osun North East (Nigeria)

SAT 27 SEPT

Vincent de Paul; Founder of the Lazarists, 1660

Ottawa (Canada)

SUNDAY 28 SEPT LEICESTER CATHEDRAL REVEALED



We are delighted that the construction phase of Leicester Cathedral Revealed is complete, marking a transformative moment in the story of the Cathedral. The Heritage Learning Centre, as a new landmark in the centre of Leicester signals the beginning of a new chapter in how the Cathedral engages with its past and imagines its future in the beating heart of our diverse city.

The project has preserved and enhanced the Cathedral's sacred spaces, balancing its spiritual essence and role as a place of worship with its function as a cultural venue. Having expanded the Cathedral's capacity and public reach, we welcome all visitors to see the immersive exhibition connecting past and present. The National Lottery Heritage Fund Learning Space with beautiful garden views is ideal for schools, community groups, businesses, and other organisations to meet, and the new facilities including toilets, serveries, storage spaces and an office add a modern but respectful layer to the Cathedral's fabric.

As the Cathedral team settle into new surroundings, we thank all those who supported the project so generously, and all who have worked so hard on the project, over many years.

We look forward to executing the next phase of the LCR project, as we deliver an exciting activity programme leading to our centenary year as a Cathedral. Whilst celebrating our 100th year, we will simultaneously reflect that LCR, in coupling legacy and innovation, has provided the launchpad for the next century.

Please pray...

We give thanks to God for his faithfulness over the years. We pray for the volunteers and staff of the Cathedral, and for all those who come through the doors of our Cathedral and Heritage Learning Centre. We give thanks for all those who supported us. May we continue to be a beacon of God's love in the city and the county. **Amen.**

Richard Norman

Chief Operating Officer

Church of Wales:

Diocese of Swansea and Brecon,
Bishop John Lomas

Church of England:

Diocese of Leicester, Bishop Martyn Snow,
Bishop Saju Mathalaly

EPC: Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru

Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan

MON 29 SEPT Diocese of Kiteto

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

Michael and All Angels (PF)

Otukpo (Nigeria)

TUES 30 SEPT

Broughton Astley & Croft with Stoney Stanton

Lester Halling (R), Peter Yates (R-PTO), John Bass (PA), Victor Goodman (C-PTO)

Orchard Croft School, Broughton Astley Manorfield School, Stoney Stanton, Croft CE Primary School

Praying for our mission, ministry and service to our local community.

Jerome; Translator, Teacher of the Faith, 420

Owerri (Nigeria)

WED 1 OCT Rogation Day

International Day of Older Persons | United Nations

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/older-persons-day>

Upper Soar Sister Liz Heaton (C),

Ullesthorpe CE Primary School, Dunton Bassett Primary School and Claybrooke primary school

Pray that working with neighbouring parishes may enable us to resource and support each other. Pray that the people may step forward into leadership roles to enable messy church to continue in school. Pray for the new Renew WellBeing initiative in Dunton Bassett and all involved.

Remigius; Bishop, 533

Anthony Ashley Cooper; Earl of Shaftesbury, Social Reformer, 1885

Owo (Nigeria)

THURS 2 OCT

Cosby & Whetstone & Narborough

Martin Stevenson (R-PTO), Eric Leese (R-PTO)

St Peter's CE Primary School, Whetstone

Installation of The Revd Richard Trethewey as Archdeacon of Leicester.

Praying for our mission, ministry and service to our local community.

Oxford (England)

FRI 3 OCT

George Bell; Bishop, Ecumenist, Peacemaker, 1958

Oyo (Nigeria)

SAT 4 OCT

Francis of Assisi; Friar, Deacon, 1226

Prayer for Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

Pacong (South Sudan)

SUNDAY 5 OCT BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month is a time when we can again focus and highlight the rich racial diversity of the people who comprise the kingdom of heaven.

Instituted in 1987, Black History Month allows us to collectively share, celebrate and understand the impact of Black heritage and culture, and how it has made our society in the UK fuller. This could be through Black people in ministry, academia, music, food or invention – to name a few.

Yet, how do we commemorate Black History Month in our diocese? I would firstly suggest ensuring we are listening, understanding and including those from Black communities in our regular services and church decision-making.

Secondly, interacting and attending the various Black History Month events that will be happening throughout the diocese this month – Black History Month is not for one group of people!



Lastly, here are some prayer pointers to help guide us through the month:

Week 1: Thanking God for the unique and consistent contributions that Black clergy, staff and church members have made within our churches, both locally and nationally.

Week 2: For us to be safe spaces for our Black communities in Leicestershire, where people feel seen, welcomed and included in our churches.

Week 3: That God would continue to heal the racial prejudices and hurt that have been experienced by our Black colleagues and friends, both in society and within religious spaces.

Week 4: A prayer for the racial justice work of the diocese, that it may offer specialised support, encouragement and training that will make Leicestershire a place where people of Black heritage thrive and fulfil their God-give purpose.

Week 5: That the work of the Racial Justice Unit, in the national church, will continue to grow and impact change on a larger scale.

Sophie Holder
Director of Racial Equity

Church of England:
Diocese of Liverpool, Bishop Ruth Worsley,
Bishop Beverly Mason

Church in Wales:
Diocese of Monmouth, Bishop Cherry Vann,
elected Archbishop of Wales 30th July 2025

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark:
Diocese of Haderslev,
Bishop Marianne Christiansen
EPC: Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela

The Anglican Church of Tanzania

MON 6 OCT Diocese of Wyoming

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

William Tyndale; Translator, Martyr, 1536

Panama (Central America)

TUES 7 OCT

Enderby with Lubbesthorpe & Thurlaston

Mark Brown (R), Cynthia Webb (PA), Fiona Davies, Heather Waterfield (CW)

Brockington CE College, Thurlaston CE Primary

We continue to pursue the best partners in the minster process. For over two years, both churches have coped without a vicar; Thurlaston church by building on its village's support to ensure its building and continuing ministry for its parishioners and Enderby church through a committed team that continues to forge forward for the gospel.

Pankshin (Nigeria)

WED 8 OCT

Avon Swift (Gilmorton, Peatling Parva, Kimcote cum Walton, North Kilworth, South Kilworth, Misterton, Swinford, Catthorpe, Shawell & Standford on Avon)

Gilmorton Chandler CE Primary School, St Andrew's CE Primary School, North Kilworth, South Kilworth CE Primary School, Swinford CE Primary School

We give thanks for the PTO clergy who continue to take services in the ten churches. We pray that more members will not just attend their own church but travel to other churches in Avon Swift, growing together in faith, hope and love.

Panrieng (South Sudan)

THURS 9 OCT North Kilworth

St Andrews endeavours to further the work of the church in North Kilworth. One service is held monthly for which we are dependent on visiting or retired clergy. We enjoy a warm relationship with St Andrews primary school. Through the summer we host tea and cake events weekly as part of our outreach.

Denys; Bishop, c.250

Robert Grosseteste; Bishop, Philosopher, Scientist, 1253

Panyana (South Sudan)

FRI 10 OCT Homeless Day

World Homeless Day 10th of October (see 12th October article)

<https://www.worldhomelessday.org>

Paulinus; Bishop, Missionary, 644

Thomas Traherne; Poet, Spiritual Writer, 1674

Paraguay (South America)

SAT 11 OCT

Ethelburga; Abbess, 675

James the Deacon; Companion of Paulinus, 7th cent

Paraná (Brasil)

SUNDAY 12 OCT WORLD HOMELESS DAY



Like many social issues today, homelessness can, sadly, become mired in politics, not helped by the rise in populism and the trend on social media, where everyone thinks they know the answer. Friends at the Hope Forum, which is our local homelessness lived experience group, will soon disillusion you of that. Tackling homelessness requires a multi-faceted co-ordinated approach, shared by governments (local and national), agencies, local communities and a whole range of specialist organisations. We are quietly proud that here in Leicester (and this is developing also in the County) this kind of hope-filled partnership exists, in the form of our Homelessness Charter.

Let's remind ourselves that, while this is a pressing national issue, it is also a very live and arguably even more sharp an issue elsewhere in the world. World Habitat, whose vision is quite simply 'a world where everyone has a safe and secure home' is an international organisation whose headquarters are here in Leicester. Their work as an international housing network centres around sharing and developing good practice – from which we have learnt. Their awards this year have gone to very diverse projects across the world - in Tanzania, Argentina, UK, Slovakia, Algeria, Australia, Austria, El Salvador and Pakistan.

We remain sharply focussed locally on increasing and diversifying the housing provision. Hotel and

B&B accommodation, while better than nothing, is woefully inadequate. Putting on hold any sense of being able to rebuild lives. Other 'live' current developments include better support for families in this kind of accommodation, joined up working to support refugees who achieve the right to remain here, but then struggle with the next steps, strategies around work and skills and closer working partnership with various arms of the NHS. And more.

Anyone is welcome to our annual service of lament for homelessness – where folks, including many from the homeless community, gather to remember friends who have died homeless and to reflect, lament and pray around the situations which still trouble us today. The service is at the Cathedral on Friday 15th October 2025 at 5.30pm.

Please pray for:

- The flourishing of World Habitat and the projects in the various countries mentioned;
- The work of Leicester's Homelessness Charter and the many agencies and charities which work together locally to tackle homelessness;
- The Hope Forum lived experience group;
- People we know locally who are homeless – whether street homeless, sofa surfing, in temporary accommodation or in any other situation – that they may be able to rebuild their lives.

The Revd Alison Adams

Canon Pastor, Leicester Cathedral

Church of England:

Diocese of Truro, Bishop Hugh Nelson

Church of Norway:

Diocese of Tönsberg, Bishop Jan Otto Myrseth

Church of Sweden:

Diocese of Strängnäs, Bishop Johan Dalman

EPC: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama

The Church of the Province of Uganda

MON 13 OCT Diocese of Trichy

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

Edward the Confessor; King, 1066

Pathein (Myanmar)

TUES 14 OCT Gilmorton

We are thankful to all those who have helped with the project commemorating the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II – including the installation of a new oak framed glass door and communal area. We have strong links with our C of E school. We used the Lord's prayer theme for collective worship.

Patna (North India)

WED 15 OCT

Teresa of Avila; Teacher of the Faith, 1582

*Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you,
all things will pass away. God never changes;
patience obtains all things, whoever has God lacks nothing.
God alone suffices. Amen*

Pelotas (Brasil)

THURS 16 OCT Lutterworth with Cotesbach and Bitteswell

**Nigel Byard (C), Ruth Bilton (R-PTO), Peter Kent (R), Ben Horrex (Associate & Youth)
Bitteswell CE Primary School, Sherrier CE Primary School, Lutterworth College**

The Wycliffe Fellowship is undertaking a teaching series in our Life Groups and Sundays based on the 10 Commandments using the just10 material by J John. The Alpha Course will run this autumn for anyone looking to know more about the Christian faith.

Nicholas Ridley and High Latimer; Bishops, Martyrs, 1555

Pennsylvania (U.S.A)

FRI 17 OCT Guthlaxton Deanery

Guthlaxton Deanery Synod is currently discussing Minster Communities and how we can grow our mission and ministry across the area. Our Deanery Synod on the 28th of October is a good opportunity to meet and share news about all that God is doing in our Deanery.

Ignatius; Bishop, Martyr, c.107

Central Pennsylvania (U.S.A)

SAT 18 OCT

Luke the Evangelist (PF)

Almighty God, who calledst Luke the Physician, whose praise is in the Gospel, to be an Evangelist, and Physician of the soul: May it please thee that, by the wholesome medicines of the doctrine delivered by him, all the diseases of our souls may be healed; through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Northwestern Pennsylvania (U.S.A)



PRISONS WEEK A WEEK OF PRAYER

This week we pray for all those in prison throughout the world. Especially those who are held hostage or prisoners of war.

As I write this the sun is shining and the sky is blue. It's June and the UK is experiencing a mini heat wave. By the time you read this in October it will be Autumn and considerably cooler.

The cells are extremely hot especially at night when everyone is locked up. Sleep is difficult, the prisoners talk to each other through the walls while others try to sleep and become cross at the noisy chatter. This causes tempers to rise and verbal fights. Lack of sleep is not a good start to anyone's day. Prison life must continue, the regime adhered to.

It is not just weather that affects the prisons. They have lost their liberty many have lost their families and friends. They have lost direction, and some have lost their faith.

Chaplains of many faiths bring that much needed help and prayer to all prisoners. The hope that they need. Most prisoners just want to offload their troubles without being judged. Always asking for prayer and guidance and hope.

In many countries prisoners have no access to a Chaplain they rely on local missionaries and priests. These visits will be very infrequent, we pray for comfort, for listening and for hope for prisoners in these situations.

Our world is troubled with wars. There are hostages, prisoners of war and many innocent

people trapped in places where they cannot escape. Please pray for them.

As you pray reflect on your life and how very different it is to those imprisoned. Pray for the difficulties they endure everyday and ask God to be with them guiding them with His grace.

Julia Bradshaw

Chaplain, HMP Gartree

Lord, you offer freedom to all people.

We pray for those in prison.

Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.

Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care.

Heal those who have been wounded by the activities of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another.

To act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in His strength and in His Spirit, now and every day. Amen.

Church of Sweden:

Diocese of Växjö, Bishop Fredrik Modéus

Church of England:

Diocese of Oxford, Bishop Steven Croft, Bishop Gavin Collins

EPC: Belize, Guatemala Honduras, Mexico

*The Episcopal Church in the
United States of America*

MON 20 OCT Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

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



Perth (Australia)

TUES 21 OCT Narborough

Praying for our mission, ministry and service to our local community.



Peru (South America)

WED 22 OCT Deanery of Sparkenhoe West

Area Dean: Kim Ford; Assistant Area Dean Martin Castle. Lay Chair: Pat Lockwood

Praising God for the work he is doing in and among all of our churches, especially with baptisms and confirmations and through working together. Prayers for us as area 5 discerns the way forward in Minister Communities and how we can do mission effectively within the groupings that are seeking to form.

Peshawar (Pakistan)



THURS 23 OCT

PTO Clergy Sparkenhoe West Deanery: John Armstrong, Nick Baker, Paul Bromiley, Sue Frost, David Jennings, Malcolm Lambert, Ruth Lambert, John Plant, Edward Pogmore & Bob Stephen.



Peterborough (England)

FRI 24 OCT



Central Philippines (Philippines)

SAT 25 OCT

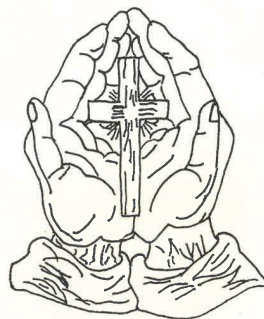


Crispin and Crispinian; Martyrs, c.287

Almighty God, by whose grace and power your holy martyr Crispin and Crispinian triumphed over suffering and was faithful unto death: strengthen us with your grace, that we may endure reproach and persecution and faithfully bear witness to the name of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Drawn by an inmate at HMP Leicester.

North Central Philippines (Philippines)



"If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your tight hand shall hold me fast."
Psalm 139:9-10



3 Key Questions

Our first key question as a Diocese is:

How are you growing, and enabling others to grow in the depth of their discipleship?

Loving God, I come to you in thanksgiving, knowing that all I am and all that I have is gift from you. In faith and love, help me to do your will.

I am listening, Lord God. Speak your words into the depth of my soul, that I may hear you clearly.

I offer to you this day all the facets of my life, whether it be at home, at work, or at school, to be patient, to be merciful, to be generous, to be holy.

*Give me the wisdom and insight to understand your will for me and the fervour to carry out my good intentions. I offer my gifts of time, talent and possessions to you as a true act of faith, to reflect my love for you and my neighbour. Help me to reach out to others as you my God have reached out to me. **Amen.***

Our second key question as a Diocese is:

How are you enabling growth in the numbers of disciples of Jesus?

*O God, our heavenly Father, you manifested your love by sending your only-begotten Son into the world, that all might live through him: pour out your Spirit on your Church, that we may fulfil his command to preach the Gospel to all people. Send forth labourers into your harvest; defend them in all dangers and temptations; and hasten coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

Our third key question as a Diocese is:

How are you serving your community, and enabling others to love and serve those around them?

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it:

a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;

a world where everyone can enjoy the riches of creation;

a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.

*Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

Church of England: Diocese of Carlisle, Bishop Rob Saner-Haigh

Church of Norway: Diocese of Stavanger, Bishop Anne Lise Ådnøy

EPC: Caribbean

The Church in Wales

MON 27 OCT Diocese of Kiteto

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

Northern Philippines (Philippines)

TUES 28 OCT Newbold de Verdun, Barlestone & Kirkby Mallory, Peckleton & Tooley

**Jonny Gordon, John Downs (C), Alyn De Casembroot (R-PTO), Roger Dunster (R-PTO),
Barlestone CE Primary School**

Barlestone is the first parish in the diocese to partner with the charity "Renew Well-Being" by opening a wellbeing space on Tuesday mornings. This has been a success, offering a safe space where it is "OK not to be OK". Prayer ministry is available too.

Simon and Jude, Apostles (PF)

O God, we thank thee for the glorious company of the apostles, and especially on this day for Simon and Jude; and we pray that, as they were faithful and zealous in their mission, so we may with ardent devotion make known the love and mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Southern Philippines (Philippines)

WED 29 OCT

James Hannington; Bishop, Martyr, 1885

Phulbani (North India)

THURS 30 OCT Barwell cum Stapleton and Potters Marston

**Philip Watson (C), Lynda Plumpton (R), Debra Watson (R)
Barwell CE Primary School**

Thank God for successful Ofstead and Siams inspections on our Church School this year. Pray for Barwell C/E Academy and all our village schools as term ends and the holidays begin. For those changing schools. For rest and good holidays. For God's blessing on all Summer activities.

Pittsburgh (U.S.A)

FRI 31 OCT

Martin Luther; Reformer, 1546

Luther's Morning Prayer

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Polynesia (Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia)

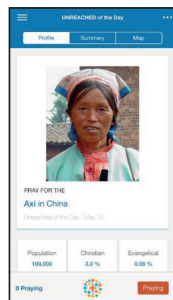
SAT 1 NOV All Saints Day (PF)

O Almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys, which thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Popondota (Papua New Guinea)

SUNDAY 2 NOV INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Every year, on the first Sunday of November, we observe the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, and this year it takes place on 2 November, 2025.



Research shows that one in seven believers worldwide faces severe persecution. Stand with these brave individuals who pay a high price for their faith through the power of prayer.

Not long ago, I had an enlightening conversation with a cab driver AKLILU (name changed) from Eritrea.

This Orthodox Christian bravely left his homeland due to religious persecution, and his journey is a testament to faith, resilience, and hope in the face of adversity.

AKLILU explained how Eritrea, which was once primarily a Christian country, has experienced changes that have severely limited religious freedom. As a Christian, he faced significant oppression, which ultimately led him to flee to England and seek asylum.

AKLILU spoke about his lively church community in Leicester, where they gather for worship at for services which start as early as 4 AM, with priests arriving even earlier to greet the congregation. These four to five-hour services are filled with prayer, worship, and teaching, providing a fulfilling spiritual experience. He emphasised that the time or inconvenience doesn't matter to them. What matters is the opportunity to be in God's presence and to worship together as a community.

What struck me deeply was his unwavering faith. Despite the uncertainty, the hardship of leaving his home, and the challenges of starting over in a new land, his trust in God has remained firm.

This conversation prompted me to contemplate the broader landscape of religious freedom, both in Eritrea and on a global scale. The recent murders of Indian pastors, coupled with the

imprisonment of evangelists and the rise of anti-conversion laws across various nations, pose a grave concern for believers everywhere.

Let us earnestly pray for the Christians in nations like Eritrea, where they grapple not only with relentless persecution from the state but also with deep-seated internal divisions and a resistance to new expressions of faith among the younger generation. In contrast, in countries like the UK, where freedom of religion is cherished, fresh challenges arise amid increasing diversity of faiths and a growing tide of secularism. Many immigrants arrive with the hopeful dream of practicing their faith freely but find themselves disillusioned by the spiritual decline and indifference that surrounds them.

AKLILU story is not just about one man, but about a community of believers who have endured suffering and yet remain steadfast in their faith. May we never take for granted the freedom to worship, and may we support those who are still fighting to have that right.

It is a call to pray for Eritrea, for those facing persecution, for unity among Christians, and for a revival of faith in lands where it once flourished.

Read Matthew 5:10-12

Prayer pointers for the persecuted church can be found in easily downloadable mobile app. Follow the link : Unreached of Day mobile app | Joshua Project or search for Unreached of the Day by Joshua project.

Shobha Gosa Intercultural Pioneer Minister, Martyrs Church, DoL

Church of England: Diocese of Winchester, Bishop Philip Mountstephen, Bishop David Williams, Bishop Rhiannon King

Church of Norway: Diocese of Agder and Telemark, Bishop Stein Reinsertsen

EPC: Canada, USA

The Church of the Province of West Africa

MON 3 NOV Diocese of Wyoming

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

Richard Hooker; Priest, Teacher of the Faith, 1600

Martin of Porres; Friar, 1639

Portsmouth (England)

TUES 4 NOV Burbage with Aston Flamville

Andrew Hall (C), Mary Tynan (R), Don Peacock (Associate Minister), Frances Knight (PTO)
Burbage CE Infants School

We ask for your prayers with our outreach to the community, in particular the Luncheon club and other social events. Our Church school Burbage Infants is in the process of federating with the Burbage Junior Community School, we pray for a smooth transition and integration of our vision and values of both schools. We ask for wisdom in seeking God's path for us in the days to come. *Pretoria (Southern Africa)*

WED 5 NOV Earl Shilton cum Elmeesthorpe

Martin Castle (C)

Townlands & St Simon and St Jude's CE Primary Schools, Earl Shilton

For the appointment of a Children, Young People and Families Worker at SS&SJ and for the congregation of St Mary's, as they plan to open the church during the week. For the development of lay ministry. *Puerto Rico (U.S.A)*

THURS 6 NOV Hinckley St Mary

Ian Hill (C), Bob Stephen (C-PTO) Penny Stephen (R)

St Mary's CE Primary School

We give thanks for our Roots Christian Basics course working through the Nicene Creed, and pray for all those who were confirmed on the 14th August. Please pray for our mission as a haven for God's sacrificial love, inclusion and acceptance and our boldness in proclaiming that message.

Leonard; Hermit, 6th cent.

William Temple; Archbishop, Teacher of the Faith, 1944

Pune (North India)

FRI 7 NOV Holy Trinity Hinckley

Simon Wearn (C), Diane McCartney (R)

Battling Brook Community Primary School

Praise God for people coming to faith and our recent celebration with Baptism and Confirmation. Please pray for us all to be rooted in Christ and growing in our faith, and for fruit from our summer outreach and opportunities to witness on Hollycoft Grange Estate.

Willibrord; Bishop, 739

Pungue River (Mozambique and Angola)

SAT 8 NOV Goscote Deanery

Saints and Martyrs of England.

Pyay (Myanmar)

SUNDAY 9 NOV REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



A prayer of commemoration for the fallen:

Father of all, remember your holy promise, and look with love on all your people, living and departed.

On this day we especially ask that you would hold forever all who have suffered during war, those who returned scarred by warfare, those who waited anxiously at home, and those who returned wounded, and disillusioned; those who mourned, and those communities that were diminished and suffered loss.

Remember too those who acted with kindly compassion, those who bravely risked their own lives for their comrades, and those who in the aftermath of war, worked tirelessly for a more peaceful world.

And as you remember them, remember us, O Lord; grant us peace in our time and a longing for the day when people of every language, race, and nation will be brought into the unity of Christ's kingdom.

This we ask in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers with poppies – suitable for children:

Anyone can be involved in prayers for remembering, whether in church or at home. All you need for this simple prayer is a poppy each.

Look at your poppy. Poppies are bright and cheerful flowers: give thanks to God

for the lives of those who have died in war, remembering all the joy they brought to families and friends, and all the good things they did for their home and their country.

Then look at the red petals: red reminds us of danger and harm. Ask God to be close to those who are still facing danger each day, to give courage to the armed forces, and compassion to all who help others.

Place your whole hand over the poppy: poppies are also fragile and need to be handled gently. God cares for those who are hurting and those who are sad. Ask God to comfort all who are grieving the loss of someone they love.

Finally place a finger on the centre of the poppy: ask God to help you play your part in working for peace in the world.

A prayer for World peace:

O God of the nations, as we look to that day when you will gather people from north and south, east and west, into the unity of your peaceable Kingdom, guide with your just and gentle wisdom all who take counsel for the nations of the world, that all your people may spend their days in security, freedom, and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Kohima Epitaph

When you go home, tell them of us, and say
For your tomorrow, we gave our today.

Church of England:

Diocese of Norwich, Bishop Graham Usher,
Bishop Ian Bishop, Bishop Jane Steen

Church of Sweden:

Diocese of Luleå, Bishop Åsa Nyström

EPC: Oceania

The Church in the Province of the West Indies

MON 10 NOV Diocese of Trichy

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

Leo the Great; Bishop, Teacher of the Faith, 461

Qu'Appelle (Canada)

TUES 11 NOV Armistice Day

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and those whose names we will never know. Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm. As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever. Amen.

Martin; Bishop, c.397

God all powerful, who called Martin from the armies of this world to be a faithful soldier of Christ: give us grace to follow him in his love and compassion for the needy, and enable your Church to claim for all people their inheritance as children of God; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Quebec (Canada)

WED 12 NOV St John's, Hinckley

Kim Ford (C), Susan Hicklin (PA), Syd Henderson, (Ev), Jessie Cisneros (Faith Enabler)

Praising God for growth in disciples in church, as well as the 5 who were baptised and confirmed on the 6th July. Prayers for us as we are looking to renew our vision and mission in the next few months as we seek a clear vision of what God is doing and how we can be a part of it.

North Queensland (Australia)

THURS 13 NOV

Charles Simeon; Priest, Evangelical Divine, 1836

Loving God, whose unerring wisdom and unbounded love order all things: Grant us in all things to see your hand; that, following the example and teaching of your servant Charles Simeon, we may walk with Christ in all simplicity and serve you with a quiet and contented mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Raiwind (Pakistan)

FRI 14 NOV

**Beacon Church - Church Plant from St John's - at the St Francis Centre, Hinckley.
Led by Kim Ford and team.**

Praising God for seeing new shoots growing in the lives of those coming from the estate. Prayers for the team as they serve sacrificially and for open hearts on the estate as we seek to evangelise and reach out this summer. For renewed vision for the year to come.

Samuel Seabury; Bishop, 1796

Rajasthan (North India)

SAT 15 NOV

Rayalaseema (South India)



Safeguarding Sunday is an ideal way to get everyone thinking about safeguarding and what your church context does to try and keep people safe and to encourage everyone to understand that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. You can sign up for a free resource pack that offers plenty of ideas that you could try here Safeguarding Sunday: <https://safeguardingsunday.org>

Why not think about what you or your church context could do to raise awareness of safeguarding. Think about what it would be helpful for people to know and how you can include everyone.

Here are some simple things you could do, you can find more here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Xx7TwjA7lX9bc_YODohbmXk3zp4b725/edit?tab=t.0

Sweets

As you eat the sweet, think about safeguarding coordinators and all they do to help churches with safeguarding and thank God for them and for those being called into this ministry.

Jigsaw Piece

Hold or look at the jigsaw piece and pray that God would help people to recognise when they have a piece of the safeguarding jigsaw and be able to pass it on.

Talk about how you can't do a jigsaw with missing pieces and that when you are doing one that once you get some pieces together it can

be easier to see the picture. In safeguarding there can be people with different bits of the jigsaw, but if anyone doesn't pass their piece on then the picture is incomplete. The picture was created by children as part of a Safeguarding Sunday session after talking about how sometimes we might notice something and have a piece of the jigsaw. They were given jigsaw shapes and encouraged to create something as a reminder.

Louise Warner

Safeguarding Training Officer

Bishop Martyn reminds us that:

"The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults lies at the heart of all that we are and all that we seek to be in the church."

If you have concerns about a child, young person or an adult who may have been harmed or be at risk of harm, please contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers for advice and support: Rachael Spiers on Rachael.Spiers@Leicestercofe.org or 0793 081 9279.

Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church:

Archbishop Urmas Viilma, Bishop Ove Sander, Bishop Marko Tiitus, Bishop Anti Toplaan

Church of England:

Diocese of Rochester, Bishop Jonathan Gibbs
Bishop Simon Burton-Jones

EPC: Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia

The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria

MON 17 NOV Diocese of Wyoming

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

Hugh; Bishop, 1200

Recife (Brasil)

TUES 18 NOV Bosworth

Paul Betts (C), Pat Lockwood (R-PTO), Colleen Annan (R-PTO)

Market Bosworth St Peter's CE Primary School

At a time of new beginnings, our prayer is that we continue to discover and celebrate the very rich traditions inherent within rural life and ministry, and as a community, continue to be shaped by God, environment, and seasons.

Elizabeth; Princess, Philanthropist, 1231

Rejaf (South Sudan)

WED 19 NOV Sheepy

Julia Hargreaves (C), Sue Frost [C-PTO] Colleen Annan (R-PTO),

Sheepy CofE Primary School

Give thanks for continued variety of engagements with the community: Strawberry teas; Year 6 Communion; Parkinson's choir; Open the Book; Brunch; Tuesday Church; Coffee and conversation; Chatty Chairs; Rainbows; Prayers for our continued energy and focus on God's will for this Benefice of six churches, as we move into a much larger Minster model.

Hilda; Abbess, 680

Mechtild; Béguine, Mystic, 1280

Remo (Nigeria)

THURS 20 NOV

Edmund; King, Martyr, 870

Priscilla Lydia Sellon, Restorer of Religious Life in the Church of England, 1876

Renk (South Sudan)

FRI 21 NOV Sapcote and Sharnford cum Wigston Parva

Jo Hover (C), Di Harrold (PA), Jill Matthews (PA), Gwynne Jones (R-PTO)

All Saints CE Primary School Sapcote, and Sharnford Primary School

Please pray for the work to restore the chancel floor in St. Helen's, Sharnford and for a deepening of the relationship between our churches, schools, nursery, care home and scouting groups in the benefice as we seek to connect across the generations.

Rhode Island (U.S.A)

SAT 22 NOV

Cecilia; Martyr, c.230.

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants on earth who seek through art and music to perfect the praises of your people. Grant them even now true glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rift Valley (Tanzania)

SUNDAY 23 NOV 5 DIOCESAN PRIORITIES



5 Diocesan Priorities

Diocesan Strategic Priorities - Intercultural Communities

One of our priorities is to develop worshipping communities where people of different cultures can learn from and bless one another, so we can better serve the God of all peoples, all languages and all nations.

*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.*

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.*

Diocesan Strategic Priorities - New 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, bless and equip,
refresh and inspire the pioneers in our Diocese
and those whom you are calling to this ministry.
Bless us with your creativity and imagination
As we explore new ways to share your
timeless love.
In Jesus' name. Amen.*



Diocesan Strategic Priorities - Reconciling Communities

One of our strategic priorities 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.***



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.

O God, we pray for justice and fairness for those worst hit by our changing climate. We know people living in extreme poverty around the world are worst hit by the climate crisis but have done the least to contribute to it, and have the fewest resources to cope with its effects. We ask for your mercy and your wisdom to become better stewards of your creation, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christ the King

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



Church of England: Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Bishop Martin Seeley
Scottish Episcopal Church: Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney, Bishop Anne Dyer

EPC: East Timor (Timor Leste), Indonesia, Philippines

The Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

MON 24 NOV Diocese of Kiteto

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

Riverina (Australia)

TUES 25 NOV

Catherine; Martyr, 4th cent.

Isaac Watts; Hymn Writer, 1748

Rochester (England)

WED 26 NOV Deanery of Sparkenhoe East

Area Dean: Ed Bampton; Assistant Area Dean: Dave Hover. Lay Chair: Marian Driver

We give thanks for our strong working relationships across the Deanery and pray as we enter Minster Community conversations we may continue to bring our gifts together to build the Kingdom of God.

Rochester (U.S.A)

THURS 27 NOV

PTO Clergy in the Deanery of Sparkenhoe East: Pauline Ashby, Pam Harvey & Tony Leighton

Rockhampton (Australia)

FRI 28 NOV Groby & Ratby

Ed Bampton, Riffat Zamurad (C), Joan Hawkins (AM), Ruth Scott (AM), Keith Wignall (AM), Louise Brown (AM and Children and Youth Worker), Angie Cain (Children's Worker)

We give thanks for our new Children and Youth worker, Louise Brown shared with the URC and the growth in our work with children, youth and families. We also give thanks for Joan Hawkins transferring to Associate Minister and all the work she does.

Rokon (South Sudan)

SAT 29 NOV

Day of Intercession and Thanksgiving for the Missionary Work of the Church

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

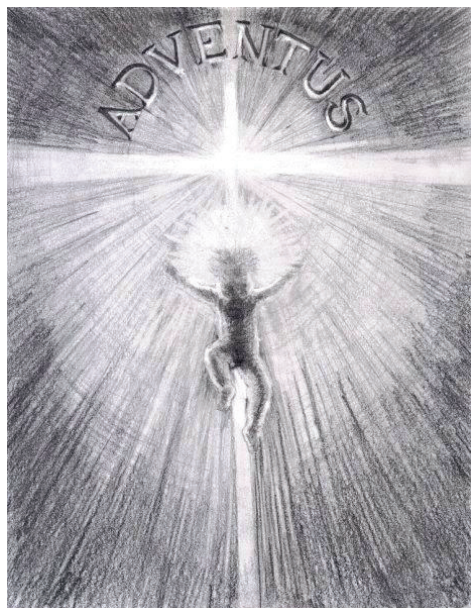
Acclamation

Go, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. We will tell of his wonderful deeds and be glad and exult in him. Sing praise to the name of the Lord most high. We will tell of his wonderful deeds and be glad and exult in him. Sing praise to the Lord, who dwells in Zion. We will declare his deeds among the peoples. We will sing and be glad and rejoice in his holy name.

Everlasting God, whose servants carried the good news of your Son to the people of the world, grant that we who commemorate their service may know the hope of the gospel in our hearts and manifest its light in all our ways; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Rorya (Tanzania)

SUNDAY 30 NOV ADVENT SUNDAY



Maranatha – “Our Lord, come”

The Advent season invites us to celebrate the birth of Jesus while renewing our hope in His promised return. Our thoughts centre on Jesus Christ — His redemptive power, His healing love, and His just care for all creation. Advent is more than remembering a past event; it is living in the joyful expectation that Christ will come again to gather His people, heal the nations, and bring peace to the world.

Across cultures, Advent is marked by a mix of joy, repentance, spiritual reflection, and preparation of the heart to welcome Christ as Saviour. The cry of the early Church — *Maranatha, “Come, Lord Jesus”* — remains our prayer today.

The birth of Jesus came at a time of deep socio-economic inequality, political corruption, and distorted religious values. Yet God took the initiative, sending His Son into this brokenness. Through His life, words, and works, Jesus transformed challenges into opportunities, gathering disciples and sending them to proclaim

the Good News and establish a new way of life rooted in God’s love for all.

Jesus healed and reconciled by praying, speaking truth in love, and serving sacrificially. He sought out the marginalised and the weak, cared for both sinners and the sinned-against, and revealed the nature of God’s kingdom.

The prophet Isaiah envisioned a world where *“swords shall be beaten into ploughshares”* and *“nation shall not lift up sword against nation”* (Isaiah 2:1–5). This hope still shapes our prayers today.

As Advent begins the new liturgical year, we continue to pray for:

- Our multi-faith society and multi-cultural Christian minority in the UK
- Peace in the world, especially in Palestine and Israel, Ukraine and Russia, and other conflict zones
- The Church’s faithful ministry, preparing the way for Christ’s return

Maranatha – Come, Lord Jesus.

The Revd. Canon Dr Sarah Gill

Canon Missioner, Leicester Cathedral

Scottish Episcopal Church:

Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane;
Bishop Ian Paton

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:

Diocese of Porvoo, Bishop Bo-Göran Åstrand

EPC: Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore

The Anglican Church of Australia

MON 1 DEC Diocese of Wyoming

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

Andrew the Apostle (PF)

Ruaha (Tanzania)

TUES 2 DEC Glenfield & Newtown Linford

Praise God for the people of all ages who have come recently enquiring about baptism. As they look to start or resume following Jesus, pray that they will find their place within the community, welcomed and encouraged, learning and growing in their own ministry.

Rumbek (South Sudan)

WED 3 DEC Anstey & Thurstaston with Cropston

Matthew Gough(C), Ian Dutton (AM),

Richard Hill CE Primary School, Thurstaston

Clare Gough is our new Associate Minister. Richard Hill CofE Primary with its leadership changes. Children's choirs initiatives and our ongoing changes with worship. We look forward to collaborative working in Minister Communities and the ongoing work of our foodbank and warm hub.

Francis Xavier; Missionary, 1552

Rumonge (Burundi)

THURS 4 DEC

John of Damascus; Monk, Teacher of the Faith, c.749

Nicholas Ferrar; Deacon, Founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637

Rupert's Land (Canada)

FRI 5 DEC Desford & Kirby Muxloe

Gareth Hutchinson (C), Tony Stokes (R), Carolyn Winkless (R)

Praying for our mission, ministry and service to our local community.

Rutana (Burundi)

SAT 6 DEC St Leonard's, Swithland

Nicholas; Bishop, c326

Almighty Father, lover of souls, who chose your servant Nicholas to be a bishop in the Church, that he might give freely out of the treasures of your grace: make your people mindful of the needs of others, and as they themselves have received, so teach them also to give, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Ruvuma (Tanzania)



"Choose which way you will walk"
taken in Norway (Chris Oxley).

The Call to Repentance

Today's Gospel (Matt.3:1-12) introduces us to John the Baptist, the strange Elijah-like figure, whose task is to prepare people for the imminent arrival of Jesus of Nazareth, whose ministry in turn will indicate through his words and actions that the promised Kingdom of God is breaking in on the scene.

At a time when we are 'preparing for Christmas'... food shopping, present buying, arranging travelling or getting ready to welcome relatives, John's preparation is in a different league all together. His is much more about an urgent call to do a top-to-bottom radical clearing out of our lives. As a starter of a checklist of what the values of the coming Kingdom will look like, just have a look at the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12, or, when you feel ready, the more radical version in Luke 6:20-26! These Beatitudes have been an inspiration and a challenge to countless generations of Christians across so many languages and cultures, and now it's our turn!

I have a number of people who come to me from this and our neighbouring diocese for Spiritual Direction. Recently, with some of them, we have started to explore what my own Spiritual Director has encouraged me to engage with: when in the Lord's Prayer we pray

for the coming of the Kingdom, where are the signs of the Kingdom, as exemplified in the Beatitudes, in our own lives?

Repentance isn't about saying sorry... there's another word for that... "contrition". Repentance is about the redirection of our lives, our thoughts and behaviour, to be signs of the Kingdom. I recall working in the Taizé Community in Burgundy, as a student, 50+ years ago, exploring with an international group what being the People of the Beatitudes would look like. I am still working on it!

The Revd Canon Chris Oxley

Pastoral Leadership Team (Chaplaincy Enabler):
Leicester Cathedral.

College of Priests: St Mary de Castro, Leicester.

Church of England:

Diocese of Chester, Bishop Mark Tanner,
Bishop Julie Conalty, Bishop Sam Corley

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:

Diocese of Kuopio, Bishop Jari Jolkkonen

EPC: Myanmar, Thailand

The Church of Bangladesh

MON 8 DEC Diocese of Trichy

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

Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Ruwenzori (Uganda)

TUES 9 DEC Leicester Forest East & St Crispin Braunstone Town with Thorpe Astley

David Hover (C), Rosemary Meredith (R)

We give thanks for all God is doing in our churches, schools and communities, and seek God's wisdom for renewing our vision and further growing in numbers, depth and service as disciples of Christ as we form new partnerships in a Minster Community.

East Ruwenzori (Uganda)

WED 10 DEC

Markfield, Thornton, Bagworth, Stanton under Bardon & Copt Oak

Andrew Smith, Pauline Ashby (C), Peter Maynard, Delia Geary (Associate Ministers),

Dave Robinson, Adrian Whalley (LAM)

Praying for our mission, ministry and service to our local community.

South Ruwenzori (Uganda)

THURS 11 DEC

Broom Leys

Steve O'Rourke (C)

Broom Leys Primary School, Warren Hills Primary School, Castle Rock High School

We have good school links and are connecting with families through our After School Church. Pray as we discern how best to serve and disciple those God is connecting into our church community.

Sabah (South East Asia)

FRI 12 DEC

Sabongidda-Ora (Nigeria)

SAT 13 DEC

Lucy; Martyr, 304

Samuel Johnson; Moralist, 1784

Almighty God, the giver of all good things, without whose help all labour is ineffectual, and without whose grace all wisdom is folly: grant, I beseech Thee, that in this my undertaking, thy Holy Spirit may not be withheld from me, but that I may promote Thy glory, and the salvation both of myself and others Grant this, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Sacred Circle (Canada)

SUNDAY 14 DEC 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Advent 3

Traditionally in the Anglican calendar, this Sunday focuses on John the Baptist. In the wider Christian world the theme is joy – and the two seem a little incompatible! John must have been fearsome and extreme – yet folk flocked to him. Because for them – the ordinary people – he offered a hope and promise of something different from the oppression they experienced. Making the religious and political elite edgy. People power being dangerous. But we shouldn't think of John in negative terms. He really wanted something different to happen. And he knew it was round the corner with Jesus.

The reading from Isaiah for today is so full of hope and joy – indeed that latter word is mentioned four times in ten verses! It was written when the Hebrew kingdom was under threat and its leaders not responding particularly astutely. Nor paying attention to God's steer. A text for our times. Not that all our current global leaders are inept or self-seeking, but surely a reminder against short termism and personal agendas.

As I write, I don't know what the situation in the various global 'hotspots' will be when you read

this. But I do know that many ordinary folk are fearful of even reading the news today, given the suffering and instability it conveys. Yet, as Christians, we should, like John, Jesus and all the prophets, face head on what we know to be happening around us. We may or may not have influence, but we can, with them, lament and indeed, be angry. And we can pray and use our voices appropriately.

There is an urgency about John which we can surely identify with, given the precarious situation humanity is in in so many ways – environmental, political, economic... Advent is surely the time to throw off any complacency and re-engage – in whatever way God calls us.

Please pray for:

Situations across the globe where there is suffering, oppression and injustice

Global leaders with influence and agency, whose instincts are for justice

Ourselves that we may be alert and attuned to God's call for engagement

Revd Canon Alison Adams

Canon Pastor, Leicester Cathedral

Church of England:

Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham,
Bishop Paul Williams, Bishop Andy Emerton

Church of Norway: Diocese of Borg,
Bishop Kari Mangrud Alvsvåg

EPC: Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

The Anglican Episcopal Church of Brasi

MON 15 DEC Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro

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

Saint Helena (Southern Africa)

TUES 16 DEC

Saint Mark the Evangelist (Southern Africa)

WED 17 DEC

O Sapientia

O Wisdom of our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
come to teach us the path of knowledge!

Eglantyne Jebb; Social Reformer, Founder of 'Save The Children', 1928 *Saldanha Bay (Southern Africa)*

THURS 18 DEC

O Adonai

O Leader of the House of Israel,
giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
come to rescue us with your mighty power!

Salisbury (England)

FRI 19 DEC

O Radix Jesse

O Root of Jesse's stem,
sign of God's love for all his people:
come to save us without delay!

El Salvador (Central America)



SAT 20 DEC

O Clavis David

O Key of David,
opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:
come and free the prisoners of darkness!

Sambalpur (North India)



‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,’ which means, ‘God is with us.’

(Matthew 1.23)

The wonderful news that ‘God is with us’ through the birth of Jesus bursts with the promise of joy and hope. As we draw nearer to the day of his birth, our focus turns to Mary. In her wonderful willingness to serve God, Mary shows extraordinary faithfulness and courage. As she carries Jesus, she surrounds him with total love and devotion, protecting and nourishing him as he grows and develops, until the time is right for him to enter the world.

In her poem ‘Advent’, Jessica Powers (1905 – 1988) writes: *‘I live my Advent in the womb of Mary... I wait in Mary-darkness, faith’s walled place, with hope’s expectance of nativity.’* Powers invites us to imagine ourselves carried by Mary in a place of all-encompassing love and faithfulness, a place of safety and stillness in which something amazing is beginning. Rather than trying to rush through to Christmas, we too can be safely held during this time of waiting, encouraged and nourished in our own continued spiritual growth and discipleship, growing in faith in the loving presence of God and reflecting on the power of the hope that Jesus’ birth offers us.

In the darkness and cold of winter, in the chaos of our festive preparations, this can be a stressful and challenging time. But even when we feel alone, distant or distracted, God is still with us. Powers concludes her poem with the reflection that it is through her Advent in the ‘womb’ that she discovers ‘earth’s most amazing knowledge: someone is hidden in this dark with me’. The presence of God draws close to us, wherever we are.

I pray that as we continue to prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus’ birth, that we will each know the beauty of God being with us today, even in the most challenging or unexpected of places.

Prayer Points:

- For our discipleship and journeys of faith this season
- Giving thanks for God’s loving presence with us
- For those who are going through difficult times, that they will know that God is ‘hidden in the dark’ with them

‘Advent’ by Jessica Powers can be found in *‘The Selected Poems of Jessica Powers.’*

Jude Taylor

Discipleship Officer

Church of Norway:

Diocese of Oslo, Bishop Kari Veiteberg

Church of England:

Diocese of Durham, Bishop Sarah Clark

Scottish Episcopal Church:

Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness;
Bishop Mark Stange

EPC: Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan
and the Mainland of China

The Anglican Church of Burundi

MON 22 DEC Diocese of Kiteto

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

O Rex Gentium

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:
come and save us, whom you formed from the dust!

Santiago (Chile)

TUES 23 DEC

O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
come to save us, Lord our God!

Santiago (Philippines)

WED 24 DEC Christmas Eve

*Hark, hark, the wise eternal word,
like a weak infant cries!
In form of servant is the Lord,
and God in cradle lies.
(Thomas Pestel)*

*Eternal God, who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

São Paulo (Brasil)

THURS 25 DEC Christmas Day

Christmas Day (PF)

*Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen*



Sapele (Nigeria)

FRI 26 DEC Boxing Day

Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr (PF)

Saskatchewan (Canada)

SAT 27 DEC

John, Apostle and Evangelist (PF)

Saskatoon (Canada)



The Holy Innocents (PF)

Matthew 2:13-18

(New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised)

The Escape to Egypt

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.'¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt,¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

The Massacre of the Infants

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

Intercession (silence is kept between prayers)

In peace let us pray to the God of love.

Righteous God, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ dwell among us and shared our grief and our pain.

We pray for the children of our world, that they may grow up knowing love and security.

We pray for all children who suffer physical or mental abuse.

We pray for all communities in our world who live with the memories of massacre and gross cruelty.

We pray for all who are corrupted by power and who regard human life as cheap.

We pray for parents who have suffered the death of a child.

We pray for parents and guardians, that they may be given grace to care for the children entrusted to them.

As we celebrate the coming of the Christ-child, we rejoice in the fellowship of the Holy Innocents and commit the children of this community, our nation and our world to you, our righteous God.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Church of England: Diocese of Chichester,
Bishop Martin Warner, Bishop Ruth Bushyager,
Bishop Will Hazlewood

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland:
Diocese of Mikkeli, Bishop Mari Parkkinen

EPC: Japan, North Korea, South Korea

The Anglican Church of Canada

MON 29 DEC Diocese of Wyoming

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

Sebei (Uganda)

TUES 30 DEC

Sekondi (West Africa)

WED 31 DEC

John Wyclif; Reformer, 1384

God our Father,
who desires that all may come to know you
and Jesus Christ whom you have sent:
grant that, like your servant John,
we may be untiring in spreading the good news of your Word made flesh;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be all honour and glory,
now and ever. **Amen.**

Happy New Year



God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose years never fail
and whose mercies are new each returning day:
let the radiance of your Spirit renew our lives,
warming our hearts and giving light to our minds;
that we may pass the coming year
in joyful obedience and firm faith;
through him who is the beginning and the end,
your Son, Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Seoul (Korea)



Have you visited Launde Abbey recently?

For over 900 years the site of Launde Abbey has been set apart for worship and prayer. From the first Augustinian monks right through to the Community of today, it remains a place of prayer, hospitality, community and sanctuary. Tucked away in the folds of the East Leicestershire countryside visitors and guests come to find tranquillity.

Our hospitality welcomes all people looking for time out. Visit us for an overnight stay (for as long as you can) or join one of our led retreats. Or, perhaps just for the day, participate in our daily rhythm of prayer and allow our hospitality team to take care of your needs; we have led retreat days or why not craft your own? If you're visiting for the first time, then have a roam of the gardens and parkland and enjoy something nutritious and homemade from our café menu.

However long or short your visit, we have something for you. **You are welcome.**

**Visit www.laundeabbey.org.uk
or call 01572 717 254.**

**For more information and to book
please call or see our website
01572 717254
www.laundeabbey.org.uk**

**Launde Abbey, East Norton
Leicestershire LE7 9XB**

Launde Abbey Companions

Supporting a place where the presence of God is more easily felt...
"I find Launde Abbey to be a 'thin place' – where the presence of God is more easily felt, and where prayer and devotion come freely and creatively." These were the words of a guest to Launde Abbey.

Launde Abbey is a special place for so many. The Abbey's work and mission is supported by an onsite community and a dedicated team of staff. But it is the support from a dispersed community, the Launde Abbey Companions, which adds a vibrancy to the Abbey's life.

Our Companions are people who share in the life of the Abbey community, who pray for us, who give time to us, and who support us financially.

The Abbey relies on the generosity and friendship of people like you to enable it to fulfil its mission: the offer of *prayer, hospitality, community and sanctuary* to all who come through its doors.

Become a Launde Abbey Companion and as part of this wider community:

- We will keep you in touch with the life and work at the Abbey via a bi-monthly Companions newsletter
- We will offer you priority booking for selected retreats and other events
- You will be invited to a special event or two during the year
- You will be able to visit the Chapel for prayer

Join a growing and active community and help sustain the work of Launde Abbey for years to come.

We'd love you to join us.

For more information visit:

<https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/support-launde/companions/>



