

Cycle of Prayer

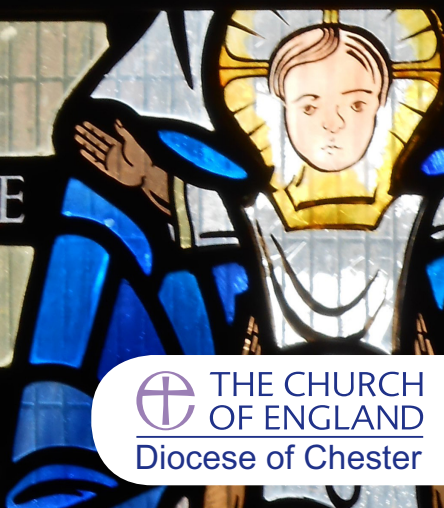
19 August 2018 - 12 January 2019

AND

THE WORD

WAS MADE

FLESH,



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Chester

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Key:

C = Clergy

LM = Licensed Lay Minister

(Reader)

(Pastoral Worker)

(Youth Worker)

Diocesan entries from the Anglican Cycle of Prayer are in italics.

Foreword

Being in the presence of God doesn't always come easily. There may be times in our lives when we feel a strong sense of God's presence and other times when God seems some distance away. On the occasions when I feel a distance from God, preparing to be in the presence of Him has been helpful.



Most recently, I led a prayer session in the chapel at Church House. I had been and continue to be concerned for the amount of conflict in the world, and therefore chose to focus my prayer session on peace. At the commencement of prayers, I presented photographs from scenes of violence, war, refugees, asylum seekers, victims of modern-day slavery, and world leaders, passing each photograph around the group to enable participants to digest the content and reflect on the emotions evoked. Those photographs were then placed on the altar in the chapel. I then gave each person a small globe, which fitted neatly into the palm of each hand, invited participants to close their eyes as I attempted to lead each member of the group on a journey to meet our Lord, using visualisation and meditation techniques, thus providing the preparation necessary for discourse between them and Jesus.

I once read that prayer can change the person praying because whilst being in God's presence we lay before Him our complete self. In a place where we cannot hide, our minds can be stilled, and our souls comforted. It is in this space that we can be at peace and just enjoy our time with Him. We read in James 4:8, 'Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.' I pray that this Cycle of Prayer will prepare and lead you to God. For if, in all things, we look for the Lord, seeking His continued presence, the peace He gives can only be our gain.

Vanessa Layfield

Diocesan Engagement and Inclusion Officer.



Welcome

How can we live out the way of Christ every day and in all things? That's the central issue in the changes that our Church's programme Setting God's People Free is aiming at. How do we encourage each other to live the faith so that it's not just 'a Sunday thing?' This Cycle of Prayer aims to be part of that encouragement in two ways.

First, it's a straightforward reminder to pray for each other regularly. Christ has called us together as his body in the world. He asks that we have a care for each other as he cares for us. Part of that belonging is to remember each other in prayer.



Second, it's a call to realise in prayer that this is God's world. Living faithfully is about every moment of every day in every place. Prayer is not limited by Sunday concerns but embraces the whole of living. Setting God's People Free is about having the confidence to pray in every circumstance. We name the world as God's and embrace it in all its disturbing complexity; our prayers born of what we know of an all gracious God whose love knows no bounds.

If you would like to suggest or write a topic for our shared intercessions, do please be in touch.

Submissions should be made to Jane.hood@chester.anglican.org (and by 19th October for the next edition).

Christopher Burkett

Editor and Director of Ministry

19 August - World Council of Churches 70th anniversary



The Twelfth Sunday After Trinity

On 23rd August 1948 the first assembly of the World Council of Churches opened in Amsterdam. At that first gathering there were 147 member-churches; now the membership stands at 350.

Predominately Protestant and Western in its earliest years, the WCC's profile and identity evolved during the 1960s with the influx of many Orthodox churches from the East and newly autonomous churches from formerly colonial regions in the South. The Second Vatican Council greatly improved relations between the WCC and Roman Catholics.

The WCC holds its assemblies every six to eight years. The most recent was the 10th Assembly convened at Busan, Republic of Korea, in 2013.

The WCC defines itself as 'a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the scriptures, and therefore seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.' (Third Assembly, New Delhi 1961)

(Source: <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/wcc70/>)

Pray for the WCC's quest for a deeper unity among Christians and justice and peace for all humanity.

Archbishop Thomas Kanjirappally Oommen, Moderator of CSI & Bishop of Madhya Kerala

20 August - Runcorn Holy Trinity

C: Derek Guest.

Bishop Emmanuel Nyitsse, Gboko (Abuja, Nigeria)

21 August - Runcorn Weston St John

C: Vivien Gisby. LM: Liana Johnson, Terry Hawes.

Heavenly Father, bless the church family of St John's, Weston we pray. May our worship be joyful and our desire to serve you sincere. We thank you for all that St John's is and for all that it does, and we pray that the good news of Jesus would spread in this community.

Bishop Brian Marajh, George (Southern Africa)

22 August - Runcorn St Michael and All Angels

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

Bishop Scott Benhase, Georgia (IV, The Episcopal Church, USA)

23 August - Thornton-le-Moors with Ince & Elton

C: Ruth Ackroyd. LM: Jen Pilling.

Give thanks for growth in Supertots and the start of a new Fresh Expressions, Stepping Stones. Please pray for God's leading and blessing as we pray and work to create the conditions for growth; also for the success of grant applications to help fund the work on our church hall in order to benefit the community.

Archdeacon Philip Muston, Administrator, Gippsland (Victoria, Australia)

Vacant, Grafton (New South Wales, Australia)

24 August - Crowton

St Bartholomew

C: Vacant. Hilary Merrington. LM: Anne Davidson Lund.

Please pray for the Holy Spirit to blow through all meeting places in our parish: our primary school, our pub, our village hall, our church, our farms and other business premises, our country lanes and our homes; that all encounters may help build up the kingdom.

Crowton Christ Church C of E School.

Bishop John Nduwayo; Bishop Aimé Joseph Kimararungu (Coadjutor

Bishop), Gitega (Burundi)

25 August - Runcorn St Chad's RC/C of E School

Bishop Gregor Duncan, Glasgow & Galloway (Scotland)

26 August - Neighbourhood Partnerships

The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Like local authorities across the land, our councils continue to work towards the creation of Neighbourhood Partnerships to address life quality issues in identifiable communities. Some partnerships are now well established while others are still at the planning and creation stage. Such partnerships (or occasionally network groups) typically include



councillors, the Police, NHS bodies, other public agencies, faith groups, the voluntary and charitable sectors, schools, Youth Services, businesses, and other community groups. Often they provide a framework for consultation on important issues and help towards decisions relating to the environment, service provision, open spaces, traffic management, and other matters of local concern. Sometimes they are the vehicle for financial awards to fund local projects like play schemes during school holidays or sourcing affordable sustainable transport. In every circumstance the emphasis is on making a specific area a better place in which to live or work.

Pray for the Neighbourhood Partnerships in your council area – may neighbourliness thrive.

Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Capetown and Primate of Southern Africa

27 August - Cheadle Deanery

Bishop Rachel Treweek, Gloucester; Bishop Robert Wilfrid Springett, Gloucester – Tewkesbury (Canterbury, England)

28 August - Bramhall

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

Please pray for the new community gathering that was launched in June. Pray that it might reach those we are not yet reaching, whilst encouraging the church to be bold in our witness to the wider community.

*Bishop Henry Ndukuba, Gombe (Jos, Nigeria)
Bishop Kadhoro Desire Makanirwa, Goma (Congo)*

29 August - Cheadle All Hallows

C: Paul Cummings. LM: Barbara Forrest, Terry Thorpe, Tony Mason, Liz Harrison, Heidi Theophanous.

Please pray for the children's holiday club that we are holding this week. We are talking about some of the encounters that Jesus had with people. Pray that the children will encounter Jesus too.

Bishop Ebenezer Ntlali, Grahamstown (Southern Africa)

30 August - Cheadle St Mary

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

Praise God for the growth among our children and youth work, and for the arrival next week of a new Youth Trainee, Bekah Davis. Pray for growth and fruit for the ongoing outreach of the parish, building on the strong community links at both St Mary's and St Cuthbert's and beyond. Pray particularly for the church community Café One, and the links with people that have grown through its work.

Bishop Nathan Tome, Guadalcanal; Bishop Alfred Karibongi, Hanuato'o (Melanesia)

31 August - Cheadle Hulme All Saints

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

Archbishop Armando Guerra Soria; Revd Silvestre Romero, Guatemala (Central America)

1 September - Cheadle Hulme St Andrew

C: Christopher Hobbs, Anthony Barnshaw, Peter Selby. LM: Peter Budd, Mike Yates, Jennie Prince, Carron Hopwood.

Pray that we reach more children and families, and also that we work well with Emmanuel as one parish.

Bishop Andrew John Watson, Guildford; Bishop Jo Bailey Wells, Guildford – Dorking (Canterbury, England)

2 September - Allen Gardiner

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

On 6 September the Anglican calendar honours Allen Gardiner, the man who founded what became the South American Missionary Society (SAMS, integrated with CMS in 2010), and who sacrificed his life as one of its first missionaries.

After a career in the navy and suffering the death of his wife, Julia, he set out to evangelise Zulus in South Africa and became the founder of Christianity in Natal. Later with his second wife Elizabeth he began to focus on South America but his desire to share Christ with Chilean Mapuches - which included a family journey of 1000 miles overland by pack mule from Buenos Aires to Santiago and Concepción - met with hostility.

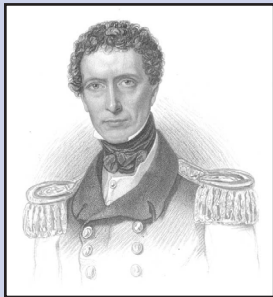
In 1842 he made his base in the Falklands and contacted Patagonian Indians. This led to the formation of the Patagonian Missionary Society two years later.

Another unsuccessful mission followed, this time to the Bolivian Indians of the Gran Chaco, so the indomitable Gardiner turned back to Patagonia and spearheaded a bold but tragic attempt in 1850-51 to evangelise the Indians of Tierra del Fuego. Six men, including three Cornish fishermen, accompanied him, but fierce weather, Indian hostility, and a series of errors and logistical problems led to disease and death on the island. Gardiner's journal, water-damaged but readable, was found in his hand the following year by the crew of HMS Dido, and includes the plea to God, 'Let not this mission fail.'

(adapted from churchmissionsociety.org/our-story-allen-gardiner)

Pray for the churches that have developed out of SAMS work and for their indigenous leaders.

Archbishop Gregory James Venables, Presiding Bishop of the Anglican Church of South America & Bishop of Argentina



3 September - Gatley

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

Send your Spirit to guide our local ministry and mission. Strengthen its resolve to love and serve you day-by-day. Help St James' Church to assist others to know your love and forgiveness.

Bishop Jacques Boston, Guinea (West Africa, West Africa)

4 September - Handforth

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

Bishop Silvans Christian, Gujarat (North India)

Bishop Bathuel Tiwade, Kolhapur (North India)

5 September - Heald Green

C: Jacob Devadason.

Bishop John Garba, Gusau (Kaduna, Nigeria)

6 September - Poynton

C: Rob McLaren, Andy Livingston, Christine Buckley, Aled Seago. LM: David Alcraft, David Capener, Les Hutchinson, David Coleman, Sarah Williams, Beth Whaites, Joe Hadfield.

Bishop Charles Davidson, Guyana (West Indies)

7 September - Woodford

C: David Russell. LM: Richard Cussons, Malcolm Evans, Joanne Rodman. In Woodford, people are moving into the new houses being built on the old aerodrome site. Please pray for us at Christ Church that we would be able to draw the new residents into our church family, and draw them into a new or deeper relationship with the Lord Jesus.

Pray that we would be deepening in our knowledge of our Saviour and King, whilst holding out the Good News about Him to all around us.

Bishop Moses Tabwaye, Gwagwalada (Abuja, Nigeria)

8 September - Great Budworth Deanery

Pray for Tim Stratford, installed as Dean in the Cathedral today.

Bishop Jean Duracin; Bishop Oge Beauvoir (Suffragan Bishop) Haiti (II, The Episcopal Church, USA)

9 September - Foundations for Ministry

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Some 1,100 people have followed the diocesan programme Foundations for Ministry (FfM) since its inception in 1998. With its unique focus on gaining a clearer understanding of an individual's God-given vocation, FfM has been much emulated in other dioceses. Here, people in a huge range of walks of life have used the insights FfM has given them. And hundreds of ministers, lay and ordained, have used it as a stepping-stone in their ministerial development.



All past and present FfM students and staff are warmly invited to come and celebrate FfM's 20th anniversary at a service in the cathedral on 23 September at 3.30pm. Indeed everyone sympathetic to its aims are welcome to attend.

FfM commences its twenty-first learning year this month. It is part of a suite of validated courses that the diocese runs in partnership with the University of Chester. All courses are closely related to the actual practice students are aiming to undertake and are designed with mission in contemporary society as a principal focus.

Please pray for all those starting or returning to study as part of training for ministries lay and ordained, and for those using FfM for personal vocational development.

Province of The Episcopal Church of South Sudan

10 September - Antrobus

C: Alec Brown, Christina Westwell. LM: Chris Taylor.

Antrobus St Mark's C of E School.

*Bishop Chad Nicholas Gandiya, Harare; Bishop Robert Mumbi, Luapula
(Central Africa)*

11 September - Appleton Thorn

C: Alan Jewell, Ruth Mock. LM: Linda Buckley, Alan Hibbert.

Bishop Robert Fitzpatrick, Hawaii (VIII, The Episcopal Church, USA)

12 September - Barnton

C: Dave Mock, Paul Pritchard.

*Bishop Richard Frith, Hereford; Bishop Alistair James Magowan, Hereford –
Ludlow (Canterbury, England)*

13 September - Daresbury

C: David Felix, Gill Younger. LM: Linda Mills, Jocelyn Squires, James Baird.

Bishop Charles Mthethleli May, Highveld (Southern Africa)

14 September - Grappenhall

Holy Cross Day

C: Jane Proudfoot. LM: John Prytherch, Christine Hunter.

Please pray for us as we seek to serve our community and further God's kingdom here in Grappenhall. Pray for our new churchwardens Linda and Julie as they learn their role.

Grappenhall St Wilfrid's C of E School.

Bishop Matthias Mededues-Badohu, Ho (Ghana, West Africa)

15 September - Great Budworth

C: Alec Brown, Christina Westwell. LM: Janet Rees.

Great Budworth C of E School.

Bishop Lloyd Allen, Honduras (XI, The Episcopal Church, USA)

16 September - The Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Chester Cathedral is many things to many people; a living community of worship, an ancient abbey, a cultural hub, a centre of musical excellence, a place of prayer and pilgrimage and a unique blend of modern and medieval history.



Christians have gathered to worship on this site for over a thousand years. When visiting the cathedral, we hope that it will inspire you, and help you to connect the things of the earth with the wonder of heaven.

From the time of its foundation by monks who followed the rule of St Benedict, this has been a special place. Here at Chester Cathedral we are committed to living out the Benedictine tradition of welcome and hospitality in all that we do, and we very much hope that you join us to discover our magnificent building. Experience, explore, enjoy – discover what Chester Cathedral is to you. All are welcome.

Please prayer for outreach within the city and diocese; that the cathedral may be a place where all are welcomed, respected and heard in the name of God. And ask God's blessing on Tim Stratford, the new Dean.

Archbishop Ezekiel Kumir Kondo, Archbishop of the Province of Sudan & Bishop of Khartoum

17 September - Latchford Christ Church

C: John Goode, Trevor Hodson. LM: Ian Burton-Baddeley, Garry Hammond.
Bishop Saw Stylo, Hpa-an (Myanmar)

18 September - Latchford St James

C: Vacant. LM: Victoria Palfreyman, Frances Ireland.

Latchford St James' C of E School.

*Bishop Linda Nicholls, Huron; Bishop Terrance Arthur Dance, (Suffragan)
Huron (Ontario, Canada)*

*Archbishop John Elswood Privett, Kootenay (British Columbia & the Yukon,
Canada)*

19 September - Lymm

C: Beverley Jameson. LM: Carole Riley, Ian Bunday, Derek Buckthorpe, Heulwen Smith, Bill Garrett.

Please pray for all the organisations and individuals involved in the St Mary's Community Poppy project as the handmade poppies begin to come into church to create a display for Remembrance Sunday in memory of the 100 years since the end of World War One. Please pray for the schools in our parish and for St Mary's Sunday School which begins again with a new format.

Bishop Kaleem John, Hyderabad (Pakistan)

20 September - Stockton Heath

C: Michael Ridley. LM: Christine Chapman, Joanna Woodward, Olu Olojugba, Claire Hutt, Adam Post.

In our anniversary year we give thanks for our witness over the last 150 years and pray that we may continue to share and bring the Good News of Jesus to our communities of Stockton Heath and Appleton.

Stockton Heath St Thomas' C of E School.

Archbishop Joseph Akinfenwa, Ibadan (Ibadan, Nigeria)

21 September - Stretton

St Matthew

C: Alan Jewell, Ruth Mock. LM: Sheila Goulston, Linda Buckley, Alan Hibbert.

Stretton St Matthew's C of E School.

Bishop Segun Okubadejo, Ibadan North (Ibadan, Nigeria)

22 September - Thelwall

C: Douglas Black. LM: Pip Horne, Colin Horrabin, R Lester.

Bishop Akintunde Popoola, Ibadan South (Ibadan, Nigeria)

23 September - Harvest

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

When British farming does make the news headlines it is often characterised as being a deeply troubled industry. No one is sure what Brexit will do to incomes that are often fragile at best. Similarly, labour shortages are already evident in some sectors and



seem likely to worsen. Add those uncertainties to issues of diversification, intensification of production, capitalization of equipment, environmental degradation, the absolute dominance of supermarkets, the demise of small producers, and the general ageing of the farming community, and the sense of crisis is palpable.

And yet there remains at the heart of rural life a pride in doing a job well and a sense of social worth that highly values the productive nature of land, labour and animal. We recognise in farmers' work something life sustaining in a literal and more than literal sense. 'The land is being worked as it should be, and I feel good about that,' says one farmer. And another adds, 'My animals are treated well, and I think that comes through in the final product.'

So, despite the very real and deep problems, farmers again and again express a profound sense of what is life sustaining that finds an echo in most of us, whether at the supermarket counter or at the gate of a grassy meadow stretching away to a valley landscape. At harvest we offer thanks for food itself and those who grow it through their labours and skill in husbandry and cultivation.

Pray for farmers – for a just reward for their work and a valuing of their contribution to our common life.

Vacant, Mpwapwa (Tanzania)

24 September - Walton

C: Anita Raggett. LM: Ian Jerrard-Dinn, Stephen Clague.

Please pray for us as we plan our joint harvest breakfast and service and as we seek to make our church accessible to all.

Bishop Wilson Elisa Kamani, Ibba (Minye, South Sudan)

25 September - Aston by Sutton, Little Leigh and Lower Whitley

C: Collette Jones. LM: Philip Littlemore, Jean Davies, Joan Sears.

Bishop Joseph Musa, Idah (Abuja, Nigeria)

26 September - Sir Thomas Boteler C of E High School

Bishop Brian Thom, Idaho (VIII, The Episcopal Church, USA)

Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Indianapolis (V, The Episcopal Church, USA)

27 September - Congleton Deanery

Bishop Caleb Maduoma, Ideato (Owerri, Nigeria)

28 September - Alsager St Mary Magdalene

C: Michelle Goodrich. LM: Mike Elkin, Christine Redstone.

Bishop Ezekiel Dahunsi, Idoani (Ondo, Nigeria)

29 September - Alsager Christ Church

St Michael and All Angels

C: Vacant. LM: Andrew Warren, Keith Davies, Rachel Mason, Matt Brown.

Bishop Oluwole Odubogun, Ife (Ibadan, Nigeria)

30 September - First Performance of 'The Planets'

The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

The orchestral suite 'The Planets' was first performed in public one-hundred years ago yesterday. On the 29 September 1918 an invited audience that included Sir Henry Wood and many professional musicians heard the work Gustav Holst (1874-1934) had laboured over for more than two years up to 1916. The war had made its performance impractical previously. A few months



later, Sir Adrian Boult conducted the work in a performance open to the public.

Holst had studied composition at the Royal College of Music, where he had been tutored by Sir Charles Villiers Stanford. Amongst his compositions are included piano and organ pieces, songs and a symphony, but it is for 'The Planets' that he is mostly remembered. That particularity, perhaps accentuated by the very English feeling tune of 'Jupiter' being set to the words 'I vow to thee my country' in 1921, has meant his other achievements have been largely overlooked

Undoubtedly 'The Planets' is one of the great orchestral pieces, often borrowed from for advertisements and in dramas. As a consequence of its popularity, Holst found himself more and more in the public gaze. This was much to his own discomfiture, as an intensely private man his personal preference was to live a quiet life of composing and teaching. He always refused to give autographs, and turned down many awards and honours.

Offer thanks for the power of music, and pray for contemporary composers.

Archbishop Stanley Ntagali, Archbishop of Uganda and Bishop of Kampala

1 October - Astbury

C: Jeff Cuttell.

We are thankful for the recovery in finances, in church life and our reputation within the community. God is good. We are grateful that, for the first time in four years, we can now look forward to the more usual challenges of restoring organs, growing the church and installing some toilets!

Astbury St Mary's C of E School.

Bishop Oluseyi Oyelade, Ife East (Ibadan, Nigeria)

2 October - Barthomley

C: Darrel Speedy, Angela Speedy.

Bishop Nathaniel Oladejo Ogundipe, Ifo (Lagos, Nigeria)

3 October - Brereton

C: Sandi Fisher. LM: Roy Ashton.

Brereton C of E School.

Archdeacon Emmanuel Adekola, Igbomina (Kwara, Nigeria)

4 October - Holmes Chapel

C: Paul Mason. LM: Anne Smith.

Bishop James Akinola, Igbomina – West (Kwara, Nigeria)

5 October - Congleton St James

C: Colin Sanderson. LM: Kenneth Hill.

Bishop Ezekiel Awosoga, Ijebu (Lagos, Nigeria)

6 October - Congleton Team

C: David Taylor, Paul Withington. LM: Geoff Scott, Lesley Smith, John Millington, Mike Hutchison, Eileen Walker.

Mossley C of E School.

Bishop Solomon Kuponu, Ijebu – North (Lagos, Nigeria)

7 October - Licensed Lay Ministers

The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity



Next Saturday those named below will be admitted and licensed as Readers or Pastoral Workers. One crucial thing about them is that they are lay people, part of the 98% of the Church of England who are not ordained. In 2017 the Church of England published a report called 'Setting God's People Free'. It is a report which is more about being set free to something than from something. It concludes that laity and clergy need to believe that 'they are equal in worth and status, complementary in gifting and vocation'.

We all have a calling or vocation within God's church. Will you pray for those named below as they embark on their new ministry and at the same time, if you are unsure, ask God to show you what ministry he has called you to?

Pastoral Workers: Anne Binnie, Monica Haworth, Claire Hutt, David Monday. Readers: James Baird, Garry Hammond, Liz Harrison, Jacintha Manchester, Trevor Park, Belinda Priestley, Chris Stanisstreet, Heidi Theophanous, Allison Whiteley.

Archbishop Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, USA

8 October - Eaton with Hulme Walfield

C: Ian Arch, Anne-Marie Naylor. LM: Douglas Wisener, Diane Wisener, Howard Lawton.

Bishop Joseph Olusola, Ijesa North East (Ibadan, Nigeria)

9 October - Elworth

C: David Page. LM: Steven Coppenhall, Colin Eastwood, Michelle Walker, Kate Page, Sue Yarwood, Cathryn Houghton.

Elworth C of E School.

Bishop Isaac Oluyamo, Ijesha North (Ibadan, Nigeria)

10 October - Goostrey

C: Heather Buckley.

Thanks to God for the faithfulness of His people here at St Luke's Goostrey. Thanks for new members with vision, commitment and concern for the kingdom of God to grow here and praying for God's leading and guiding.

Archdeacon Paul Olarewaju Ojo, Ijumu (Lokoja, Nigeria)

11 October - Church Lawton

C: Steve Clapham. LM: Margaret Cruxton, John Atkins, Bev Boulton.

Bishop Yusuf Janfalan, Ikara (Kaduna, Nigeria)

12 October - Odd Rode

C: Philip Atkinson. LM: Robert New.

Woodcock's Well C of E School.

Bishop Emmanuel Maduwike, Ikeduru (Owerri, Nigeria)

Bishop Peter Onekpe, Ikka (Bendel, Nigeria)

13 October - Sandbach

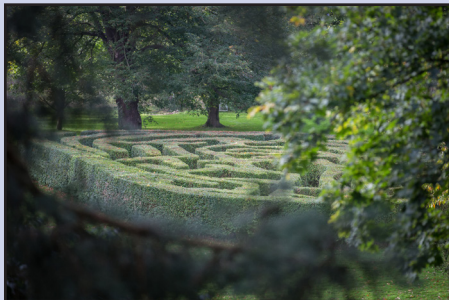
C: Thomas Shepherd. LM: Joan Plowman.

Bishop Blessing Enyindah, Ikwerre (Niger Delta, Nigeria)

14 October - Foxhill House And Woodlands

The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

Foxhill House is a remarkable and unique place offering prayerful hospitality and welcome. Its life is centred on the chapel, where daily prayer and a regular pattern of worship is offered. It has a commitment to be a place of refreshment, restoration and renewal for all who visit. There is a programme of



retreats, study days and training, and it is used by churches, other groups, organisations and individuals of all ages and backgrounds, as a place for recovery and discovery, for teaching and meetings. Foxhill is a resource for mission and evangelism, equipping churches and individuals to share the good news of Jesus in word and action.

It has been supported for many years by a faithful and hardworking network of Friends. As Foxhill enters a new phase of life and ministry, this network is growing into something wider and deeper. A tree can only grow out as far as it is supported by its root system, and the Friends want to give Foxhill all the support it needs. Friends are invited to commit to regular prayer, or regular giving, or volunteering. Some may commit to all three. Everybody's contribution will be different but all are just as valuable. If you would like to support Foxhill as a Friend, please contact Foxhill (Tel: 01928 733777, email: foxhill@chester.anglican.org) to obtain a form.

Prayer is at the very heart of Foxhill's work – in its meetings, retreats, teaching, staff, hospitality, worship, and listening – it is a place which is continually held before God by a praying community; partners in the ministry. Andrew Rudd.

Please hold Foxhill in your prayer today.

Archbishop John Davies, Archbishop of Wales & Bishop of Swansea & Brecon

15 October - Sandbach Heath

C: Bernard Sword. LM: Alan Warburton.
Sandbach Heath St John's C of E School.

Bishop Kenneth Ifemene, Ikwo (Enugu, Nigeria)

16 October - Smallwood

C: Jeff Cuttell.
Smallwood C of E School.

Bishop Chigozirim Onyegbule, Ikwuano (Aba, Nigeria)

17 October - Wheelock / Hassall Green

C: Bernard Sword. LM: George Wood.

Bishop Fredrick Olugbemi, Ilaje (Ondo, Nigeria)

18 October - Swettenham

St Luke

C: Ian Arch, Anne-Marie Naylor. LM: Howard Lawton.

Bishop Samson Adekunle, Ile – Oluji (Ondo, Nigeria)

19 October - Siddington with Capesthorpe

C: Ian Arch, Anne-Marie Naylor. LM: Douglas Wisener, Diane Wisener,
Raymond Rush, Howard Lawton.

Bishop Olubayu Sowale, Ilesa (Ibadan, Nigeria)

20 October - Marton

C: Ian Arch, Anne-Marie Naylor. LM: Douglas Wisener, Diane Wisener,
Raymond Rush, Howard Lawton.

Bishop Samuel Egbibunmi, Ilesa South West (Ibadan, Nigeria)

Bishop Felix Akinbuluma, Irele – Eseodo (Ondo, Nigeria)

21 October - Mixing-In Yet Distinctive

The Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity

'Beloved, as resident aliens and exiles, I urge you, not to indulge in selfish passions, that wage war on the soul ...' (1 Peter 2:11). Every part of life is within the orbit of Christ's Lordship. The 'royal priesthood' – the people of faith as a people/community – has to offer this totality of living to God in Christ. Our priestly service as a people is to bring everything to Christ. And that really does mean everything; and it really does mean that only the whole body of the faithful can do that. This is about every aspect of human experience. It means nothing less than the transformation of human society.



When Christ himself spoke about his followers doing such a thing for the Kingdom of God he called them salt, light and yeast: salt that brings out the flavour of things, light that illuminates even the darkest corners, and yeast that stirs up the dough, changing its character completely (Matthew 5:13-14, 13:33). All three qualities speak of that which is distinctive yet achieving its purpose only in close contact with something else. Distinctiveness and close contact is vital. I think that means we are asked to be recognizably different as a people of faith but that we cannot achieve our calling unless we are well mixed-in with other people. We are not called to be aloof and apart from others. It is only with others that we can become our true selves.

Pray for the Church's mission as salt, light and yeast in the world.

Archbishop Dr Daniel Sarfo, Primate & Metropolitan, CPWA, Archbishop of the Internal Province of Ghana and Bishop of Kumasi

22 October - Marton and District C of E School

Bishop Alan Scarfe, Iowa (VI, The Episcopal Church, USA)

Vacant, Kansas (VII, The Episcopal Church, USA)

23 October - Malpas Deanery

Vacant, Iran (Jerusalem & Middle East)

24 October - Aldford

C: Julian Beauchamp, Karl Jones. LM: Kath Wentel.

We thank God and pray for Revd Karl Jones as the new Associate Minister, and for the new Messy Church now taking place monthly. Pray that many would start to attend, for a good atmosphere and spiritual growth.

Bishop Owen Azubuikwe, Isiala-Ngwa (Aba, Nigeria)

25 October - Bickerton

C: Ian Davenport, Helen Molesworth.

Bickerton Holy Trinity C of E School.

Bishop Isaac Nwaobia, Isial-Ngwa South (Aba, Nigeria)

26 October - Bickley

C: Richard Diggle.

Bishop Manasses Chijiokem Okere, Isikwuato (Aba, Nigeria)

27 October - Bruera

C: Julian Beauchamp, Karl Jones. LM: Kath Wentel.

We thank God and pray for Revd Karl Jones as the new Associate Minister, and for the new Messy Church now taking place monthly. Pray that many would start to attend, for a good atmosphere and spiritual growth.

Saighton C of E School.

Bishop Daniel Selvaratnam Thiagarajah, Jaffna (South India)

28 October - Simon And Jude

Ss Simon and Jude. The Last Sunday after Trinity

Just why Saints Simon and Jude are linked together in a common feast day is far from clear. Indeed, little about either of them can be gleaned from the Gospels: as a sermon on the English Dominicans' website puts it of the Gospel accounts: 'Simon has no special part to play. He's important enough to be named, but that's it. Jude is rather like an extra in a play – in John's Gospel he has a walk on part and a single line at the last supper, and no more. Ordinary, everyday people, it seems.'



In that same homily, Fr Robert Gay OP goes on to say, 'But, there is a lot to be said for being ordinary, for being the anonymous one, the silent one. Still waters, it is said, run deep. And this is certainly the case for Saints Simon and Jude. Tradition holds that both men worked hard at preaching the Gospel. It's claimed that Simon preached in Egypt, and then later followed Jude on a mission to the people of Mesopotamia and Persia, where they were both martyred. That ordinariness was built on by the grace of God, and they showed themselves to be extraordinary in their love for Christ, and in their willingness to die for him.'

All of us who worship in ancient buildings are familiar with memorials naming Christians of earlier ages. Generally we know little or nothing of the characters named – except the occasional reference to piety and sincerity of faith. Nevertheless we know ourselves to be 'living stones' built with them into a common 'spiritual house.'

[Source: www.english.op.org/preaching.htm]

Pray for churches dedicated in the names of Ss Simon and Jude, and offer thanks for the heritage of faith in which we act.

Archbishop John Holder, Archbishop of West Indies & Bishop of Barbados

29 October - Bunbury

C: Tim Hayward, Vicky Barrett, LM: Tom Crotty, Michael Verity, Pat Edgley, Joy Parker, Kathy Collinge, Peter Collinge, Amber Middlemiss.
Bunbury Aldersley C of E School.

Bishop Timothy Yahaya, Jalingo (Jos, Nigeria)

30 October - Burwardsley

C: Lameck Mutete.

God, You have called us to grow in grace, increase our understanding of Jesus and develop an intimate relationship with You. This is what we desire.

*Bishop Howard Gregory, Jamaica & The Cayman Islands; Bishop Robert Thompson, Jamaica – Kingston; Vacant, Jamaica – Mandeville; Bishop Leon Paul Golding, Jamaica – Montego Bay (West Indies)
Bishop Leroy Brooks, North Eastern Caribbean & Aruba (West Indies)*

31 October - Coddington

C: David Scurr. LM: Raymond Moulton, Steve Peart.
Clutton C of E School.

Bishop Timothy Adewole, Jebba (Kwara, Nigeria)

1 November - Farndon

All Saints Day

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

Bishop Stephen Mosimanegape Moreo, Johannesburg (Southern Africa)

2 November - Handley

C: Lameck Mutete.

Fill us with the Spirit of servanthood for tirelessness stewardship in your kingdom so that all may come to know you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Archbishop Benjamin Kwashi, Jos (Jos, Nigeria)

3 November - Hargrave

C: Christopher Deakin.

Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit for our future music projects.

Huxley C of E School.

Vacant, Juba; Bishop Fraser Yugu Elias (Assistant Bishop) Juba (Loryko, South Sudan)

4 November - Workplace Chaplaincy Mission UK

The Fourth Sunday Before Advent

Workplace Chaplaincy Mission UK (WCMUK) is a British network of over 300 practitioners engaged in workplace chaplaincy mission. It has its roots in the Industrial Mission Association, founded in 1959.



WCMUK typically provides a workplace with pastoral care, a sense of community, an independent perspective and linkage to local groups. Chaplaincies respect faith differences and do not attempt to proselytise. This is a ministry authorised by churches, but based in different host organisations.

Workplaces with chaplaincies include retail, transport, industry (Small and Medium Enterprises, heavy industrial, motor, energy, science and research); as well as in the service sector (e.g. public sector, sport and leisure, HM Courts service, Fire and Rescue and Police Services), social enterprises and in some education areas (e.g. Further Education). Many chaplains are also involved with the Civic Centres of towns and cities and also with social, economic and faith regeneration projects.

WCMUK relates to national church representatives and other networks of chaplains – e.g. Armed Services, Universities, and Hospitals. WCMUK also acts as a resource for the wider church and society, as it engages with issues associated with the working and economic life of the nation – the faith life of Christians at work is often a focus of endeavour.

[Source: www.industrialmission.org.uk/]

Pray for workplace chaplains and an improving engagement of the churches with the world of work.

Bishop Dhiloraj Ranjit Canagasabey, Colombo; Bishop Keerthisiri Fernando, Kurunegala (Ceylon) (E-P to the Archbishop of Canterbury)

5 November - Malpas with Threapwood

C: Ian Davenport, Helen Molesworth.

Bishop Steven Akobe, Kabba (Lokoja, Nigeria)

6 November - Marbury

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

*Bishop Andudu Adam; Bishop Hassan Osman; Assistant Bishop, Elnail,
Kadugli & Nuba Mountains (Sudan)*

7 November - Shocklach

C: Jane Stephenson. LM: Chris Gilbert, Trisha Swift.

We ask for prayer for both the churches in this joint benefice as they work together to bring God's word to the people in these places. Pray for those who attend the churches regularly and those who are drawn to attend from time to time, or not at all. We ask for prayer for the many people who come simply to visit the beautiful little church of St Edith's and who find a place of quiet and retreat and for the times when civic services draw people to St Mary's.

Shocklach Oviatt C of E School.

*Vacant, Kaduna; (Kaduna, Nigeria)
Bishop Marcus Dogo, Kafanchan (Abuja, Nigeria)*

8 November - Tarporley

C: Georgina Watmore. LM: Nick Sanders.

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

*Bishop Aaron Kijanjali, Kageral; Bishop Vithalis Yusuph, Biharamulo
(Tanzania)*

9 November - Tattenhall

C: Lameck Mutete.

Lord Jesus Christ, we are sorry for the things that we have done wrong in our lives. We ask your forgiveness and now turn from everything which we know is wrong. Thank you for dying on the cross for us to set us free from our sins. Please come into our lives and fill us with your Holy Spirit.

Bishop Gadiel Katanga Lenini, Kajiado (Kenya)

10 November - Tilstone Fearnall

C: Tim Hayward.

Bishop Emmanuel Murye, Kajo Keji (Loryko, South Sudan)

11 November - Remembrance Sunday

Armistice 100

The Third Sunday Before Advent

In 'A Nation's Thank You – The People's Procession' ten-thousand members of the public have been invited to march past the Cenotaph in London today. It will take place after the conclusion of The Royal British Legion's Veteran Dispersal and March Past, following the National Service of Remembrance that marks the centenary of the end of the First World War.



At the same time, people are being encouraged to ring bells, as the government is seeking to replicate the spontaneous outpouring of relief that took place in 1918. As news of the Armistice spread, church bells, which had fallen silent across the UK during the First World War, rang out in celebration.

Throughout the world, bells of all kinds - church, military or any other - are invited by the British Government with the support of the German Government to ring out at 1230 GMT (1330 CET).

[Source: UK Government, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.]

Remember before God all those who have died in war, especially those who died in the Great War 1914-18.

'He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shield with fire.' (Psalm 46.9)

Bishop Griselda Delgado Del Carpio, Cuba (Cuba)

12 November - Tilston

C: Jane Stephenson. LM: Chris Gilbert, Trisha Swift.

Pray for both parishes and for the leaders of these rural communities: both lay and ordained, church-based and secular. Pray for the two schools, the two pubs and for a sense of welcome and hospitality to be received by those who have lived in these parishes for many years, and for the increasing number of newcomers, especially in the new housing in Tilston. Tilston Parochial C of E School.

Bishop Sabiti Tibafa Daniel, Kamango (Congo)

13 November - See of Chester

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

Archbishop Stanley Ntagali, Archbishop of Uganda & and Bishop of Kampala; Bishop Hannington Mutebi, (Assistant Bishop) (Uganda)

14 November - Tushingham

C: Veronica Green.

Tushingham-with-Grindley C of E School.

Bishop Zakka Nyam, Kano (Kaduna, Nigeria)

15 November - Waverton

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

We thank God and pray for the new 'Wonderfully Made' course for young mums before the Little Fishes Toddler Group starts each Monday. We also thank God for new toilet and brewing station facilities being added to the church building. We thank God for the good progress of Revd Jules's health.

Bishop Gnanasigamony Devakadasham, Kanyakumari (South India)
Bishop Reuben Mark, Karimnagar (South India)

16 November - Whitewell

C: Veronica Green.

Borderbrook Anglican School.

Bishop Paul Korir, Kapsabet (Kenya)

17 November - Knutsford Deanery

Bishop Sadiq Daniel, Karachi (Pakistan)

18 November - The Persecuted Church

The Second Sunday Before Advent

The Third Sunday of November is International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Across the world in over 60 countries, Christians are targeted just because of their faith in Jesus. It could be loss of home, country or job; being murdered by your own family, torture or imprisonment. Persecution is on the increase.



Open Doors resources our worldwide family in several key ways. Nidal from Iraq received food aid when she was forced to flee her home to escape the self-proclaimed Islamic State. She says, 'That kept us alive and hopeful and helped us hope for better times.'

Your support also enables Open Doors to ensure the voices of persecuted Christians are heard by those in power. Tobias Ellwood, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, says, 'Open Doors makes a major contribution to the Government's thinking to try to support Christians and other religious communities in the Middle East and North Africa.'

By becoming engaged with your suffering family you can help tell their stories and change the endings. Join with us to pray and support them.

If you would like to hear more of the needs of your worldwide family, consider inviting a speaker to your church. Contact Canon Trevor Green at trevlaine10@aol.co.uk

Bishop Nicholas Dill, Bermuda (Bermuda) (Extra-Provincial to Canterbury)

19 November - Alderley

C: Jon Hale.

Please pray for newcomers settling in the parish in the 300 houses that are being built at Alderley Park. Please pray for St Mary's Church as it responds to the sudden increase in parish population and works with the Nether Alderley Parish Council to repair and refurbish the Parish Hall.

Bishop Prasana Kumar Samuel, Karnataka Central (South India)

20 November - Chelford

C: Gerri Tetzlaff, Fiona Robinson.

Pray for Connecting Chelford – a community outreach to relieve loneliness; for development of lay leaders in the church; for hope for the future.

Chelford C of E School.

Bishop Ravikumar J Niranjana, Karnataka North (South India)

21 November - Alderley Edge

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

Father, we give you thanks for the ministry and discipleship of your people gathered in St Philip and St James. Guide them as they seek ways to reach out to families with children in their community.

Bishop Mohan Manoj, Karnataka South (South India)

22 November - High Legh

C: Philip Robinson, Trish Cope, Patricia Robinson. LM: Chris Stanisstreet. As St John's celebrates the 125th anniversary of its most recent consecration, please pray that our current good links with the local community will continue and grow; also for our congregation as we seek to understand and encourage each other in our Christian lives throughout the week. May we support each other through both the opportunities and the challenges.

Bishop Marcel Kapinga, Kasai – Mbuji-Mayi (Congo)

23 November - Knutsford St Cross

C: Paul Deakin, Simon Gowler. LM: Mary Daw, Allison Whiteley.

Please pray that St Cross will welcome many people through its doors at the Christmas Tree Festival (December 7th - 9th), and that they will be touched by the light and love of Jesus Christ.

Bishop Ernest Kiprotich Ng'eno, Kericho (Kenya)

24 November - Knutsford St John the Baptist

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

Bishop John Okude Omuse, Katakwa (Kenya)

25 November - 250th Anniversary of Royal Academy of Arts

Christ the King (The Sunday next before Advent)

The website of the RAA puts it this way, 'On a winter's day in 1768, architect Sir William Chambers visited the king, George III. He brought with him a petition signed by 36 artists and architects including himself, all of whom were seeking permission to 'establish a society for promoting the Arts of Design'. What's more,



they also proposed an annual exhibition and a School of Design. Lucky for us, the King said yes. And so the Royal Academy of Arts, the Royal Academy Schools, and what you know today as the Summer Exhibition, were born.'

Of the founding members, four were Italian; one was French; one Swiss and one American. Among their number were two women, Mary Moser and Angelica Kauffmann. The first president was Sir Joshua Reynolds. As then, the RA remains a body run by artists themselves.

The annual exhibition, now called the Summer Exhibition, has run every year since the RA's founding – including during both World Wars. It remains the largest open-submission art exhibition in the world.

Entry drawn from www.royalacademy.org.uk where more information about RA250 can be found.

Pray for the practice, appreciation and understanding of art in all its diversity.
Bishop José Jorge De Pina Cabral, Lusitanian Church (Portugal) (E-P to the Archbishop of Canterbury)

26 November - Lindow

C: Simon Gales. LM: Gareth Crispin.

Bishop Bertin Subi, Katanga; Bishop Lawrence Elisha Tendwa (Assistant) Katanga (Congo)

27 November - Lower Peover

C: Jane Lloyd. LM: Ann Barlow.
Lower Peover C of E School.

Bishop Jonathan Bamaiyi, Katsina (Kaduna, Nigeria)

28 November - Marthall

C: Gerri Tetzlaff, Fiona Robinson.

Pray for Messy Church @ Marthall and for a sustainable future for the church.

Archbishop Edmund Akanya, Kebbi (Kaduna, Nigeria)

29 November - Mobberley

C: Ian Blay. LM: John Grainger, Jean Underhill.
Mobberley C of E School.

Bishop David Norman Ashdown, Keewatin (Rupert's Land, Canada)

30 November - Over Peover

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

Bishop Terry White, Kentucky (IV, The Episcopal Church, USA)

1 December - Over Tabley

C: Philip Robinson, Trish Cope, Patricia Robinson.

Please pray for the initiatives to take church out of the building and into the community, and give thanks for progress made towards a faculty to provide a toilet, kitchen, social space and disabled access.

Vacant, Kibondo; Bishop Isaiah Chambala, Kiteto (Tanzania)

2 December - Discipleship

The First Sunday of Advent

The report *Setting God's People Free* seeks to change the quality of our discipleship so that we may more intentionally live as disciples in every part of life, every single day. Words used by Archbishop John Sentamu in his August address in 2005 remain powerful in considering the change being aimed at:

'... Jesus' idea, which has lasted over the centuries, was simply this: being a disciple was to belong to a community of sinners called to be saints, a divine society where the risen Christ in the midst of it is grace and truth, and the Holy Spirit is at work within it. An inclusive and generous friendship, where each person is affirmed as of infinite worth, dignity and influence. A community of love, overflowing in gratitude and wholehearted surrender, because it participates in the life of God.

This Christ-centred life happened in the first century when a tiny handful of timid disciples began, in the power of the Holy Spirit, the greatest spiritual revolution the world has ever known. Even the mighty Roman Empire yielded, within three centuries, to the power of the Good News of God in Christ.

The scandal of the church is that the Christ-event is no longer life-changing, it has become life-enhancing. We've lost the power and joy that makes real disciples, and we've become consumers of religion and not disciples of Jesus Christ.'

[Source: www.archbishopofyork.org/]

Pray for all that makes for intentional life-changing discipleship.

*Bishop Carlos López-Lozano, The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain
(Spain) (E-P to the Archbishop of Canterbury)*



3 December - Rostherne with Bollington

C: Philip Robinson, Trish Cope, Patricia Robinson.

Please give thanks for the progress with our toilet extension and internal re-ordering at St Mary's Rostherne. Pray with us that the improved facilities will enable greater use by the community.

Pray for Holy Trinity, Little Bollington as we rejoice at Little Bollington School being graded 'Outstanding' following its recent SIAMS inspection, please pray for a closer involvement between parents, church and local community. Little Bollington C of E School.

Bishop Emmanuel Ntazinda, Kibungo; Bishop Assiel Musabyimana, Kigeme (Rwanda)

4 December - Toft

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

Bishop George Bagamuhunda, Kigezi (Uganda)

5 December - Wilmslow

C: Caroline Throup, Roger Yates, Kirsty Allan. LM: Sally Mullock, Christina Theobald, Don Hood, Anne Binnie.

St Anne's Fulshaw C of E School.

Bishop Ferran Glenfield, Kilmore; Elphin & Ardagh (Armagh, Ireland)

6 December - Birtles

C: Jon Hale.

The parish of St Catherine, Birtles has a small population. Please pray for St Catherine's Church in its effective ministry, that it may continue to be equipped with all necessary gifts and skills for a parish church.

Bishop Oswald Swartz, Kimberley & Kuruman (Southern Africa)

7 December - Middlewich Deanery

Bishop Dan Zoreka, Kinkiizi (Uganda)

8 December - Byley-cum-Lees

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

Pray for our church which is at the heart of this small rural community, that we might continue to show the love of Christ to our neighbours.

Bishop Achille Mutshindu, Kinshasa (Congo)

9 December - VOTE 100

The Second Sunday of Advent



Friday (14th) will be the centenary of women voting in a general election for the first time in this country. In 1918 some eight-and-a-half million women were eligible. The rights of women, as ever, lagged behind those of men. The 1918 Representation of the People Act granted the vote to all men over 21 years of age and to some women over 30. Women's electoral equality with men was achieved ten years later. Despite the partial nature of its suffrage, the achievements of our democracy are to be celebrated.

Taking part in some Vote100 events this year has reminded me of Jesus' meeting with a woman who had been ill and subsequently barred from synagogue and society for twelve years (bleeding meant being unclean and therefore unable to be part of the community). While Luke reports her telling Jesus why she touched him and that she had been healed, Mark has a significantly different report. She told Jesus the 'whole truth'. Jesus took time to listen, and thereby gave her a voice.

It took another ten years before all women could vote. This year we celebrate something partial. Even with the right to vote, there are many in our communities who are never heard. As well as thankfulness, perhaps we could use this year as a prompt to ask how we might give voice to the voiceless.

Liz Shercliff, Director of Studies (Readers)

Bishop Timothy Thornton, Falkland Islands (Parish of) (Canterbury, Falkland Islands) (Extra-Provincial to Canterbury)

10 December - Davenham

C: Rob Iveson, Ginnie Geraerts. LM: Dick Clague, Jim Kemp, Philip Bishop. For more help with sharing the load so that we have energy to manage our buildings well, and have lots of energy for discipleship and mission. Davenham C of E School.

Bishop Joseph Kibuchwa, Kirinyaga (Kenya)

11 December - Delamere

C: Elaine Ollman. LM: Gloria Ackerley.

Please pray for our outreach in the local community particularly the ongoing monthly Messy Church at Delamere School and that the people of God in this place will continue to grow in their discipleship.

Delamere C of E Academy.

*Bishop Lambert Funga Botolome, Kisangani, Bishop Muhindo Isesomo,
Nord Kivu (Congo)*

12 December - Hartford

C: Mike Smith, Dimitri Allridge, George Agar, Phil Highton, Alec Ham. LM: Jeremy Hunns, David Charlton, Nathan Phillingham, Teresa Nixon.
Hartford C of E High School.

Bishop Zerubbabel Katsuichi Hirota, Kita Kantom (Japan)

13 December - Little Budworth

C: Vacant, John Stopford. LM: Joyce Scholefield, Pauline Hayward.

*Bishop Stephen Kewasis; Bishop Samson Tuliapus (Suffragan) Kitale
(Kenya)*

14 December - Lostock Gramam

C: Vacant. LM: Graham Sheen, Joyce Kenrick, Roger Kenrick.

We thank God for his faithful love expressed in our shared life together. We pray for the people taking responsibility for the parish during the vacancy, for the Spirit's shaping of plans for the future, for our outreach, especially the families and young people, and for the appointment of a new vicar.

Lostock Gramam C of E School.

Vacant, Kitgum (Uganda)

15 December - Middlewich

C: Simon Drew, Liz Woode, Lorraine Reed, Thia Hughes, Alison Boulton. LM: Jacqui Briscoe, Julie Hassall, Anne Latham, Duncan Goodwin, Tony Woode, Steve Broadfoot, Christine Hamill-Stewart, Elaine Reynolds, Sue Ikin, Jeremy Coles.

Give thanks for our growing outreach into the southern part of the town. Please also pray for church building repair and development plans that we might be united in our vision.

Bishop Josephat Mule, Kitui (Kenya)

16 December - Called to Serve

The Third Sunday of Advent



Called to Serve is an annual event run for those for those interested in exploring the various licensed ministries – ordination, Readers, and Pastoral Workers – and other recognised ministries (Church Army Evangelist, Religious Communities) within the Church of England.

Three personal questions indicate who would find this event useful: 1) Are you wondering how best to serve God? 2) Are you unclear what the options are? 3) Are you ready to take the first step to find out? If those questions apply to you, then Called to Serve will be especially useful. If they apply to someone you know, why not offer a gentle word of encouragement to the person to attend? There will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions and to talk to people already involved in these ministries. All is offered within a relaxed context and with no obligation.

Called to Serve takes place at Foxhill House on Saturday, 26th January 2019, 9.00am to 3.00pm.

Lunch is provided and booking is essential, simply email ddo@chester.anglican.org or phone Peter Bacon on 01928 718834 ext 237. (closing date for bookings Friday, 18th January).

Pray for all attending and for everyone working to discern God's call on their lives.

Bishop Augustin Ahimana, Kivu (Rwanda)

17 December - Moulton

C: Mark Pickles. LM: Grant Davies.

Bishop Augustine Naoaki Kobayashi, Kobe (Japan)

18 December - Holy Trinity, Northwich

C: Carol Seddon. LM: Phil Baker.

Bishop Felix Odei Annancy, Koforidua (Ghana, West Africa)

19 December - St Luke, Northwich

C: Dave Mock, Paul Pritchard. LM: Malcolm Evans, Sue Renshaw, Jim Crawshaw, Kenneth Smyth.

Vacant, Kollam – Kottarakkara (South India)

Bishop Govada Dyvasirvadam, Krishna-Godavari (South India)

20 December - Over St Chad

C: Chris Moore, Joe Smith. LM: Christine Keay.

Please pray for a new lunchtime community project in the parish, giving thanks for those who come, share, volunteer and support it in so many different ways, each one revealing a glimpse of Christ in this place.

Winsford St Chad's C of E School.

Bishop Given Gaula, Kondoa (Tanzania)

21 December - Over St John

C: George Crowder.

Over St John's C of E School.

Bishop Gabriel Thuch Agoth Deng, Kongor (Upper Nile, South Sudan)

22 December - Sandiway

C: John Hughes. LM: Andrew Hardy, Jo Whittall, Hilary Chambers, Sue Hadden, Paul Stevenson, Dug Harris, Marian Harris, Emma Nicholl.

Bishop Jonah Ibrahim, Kontagora (Lokoja, Nigeria)

23 December - Magnificat

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

'My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.'

You know those calculations you do in idle moments – well I calculated how many times I've said, sung or listened to pregnant Mary's Magnificat – as of yesterday it amounts to a minimum of 12,200 times. I began taking the Daily Office seriously when I was sixteen. I am steeped in that kind of Bible use that the Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann calls 'traditioning' – letting the words of the biblical tradition indwell you through use, through repetition; allowing that vital life-blood of faith words to enables us to inhabit the alternative that is God's vision of what is. Feel it, inhabit it, live in it, before you give way to wholly rational and analytical categories. In faith terms Scripture needs to be known prior to being known about.



We have to constantly remind ourselves not to domesticate this tradition that is quite other to our ordinary inclinations. We have to let the Bible read us; it's not all about us reading it. Familiarity dulls us to the extraordinary in it. Do you remember the cinema-goer interviewed those years ago when the award-winning film Titanic was all the rage who said he had no intention of going to see it as he 'knew how it ended?' His problem is ours when it comes to the Christmas story. We know how it turns out. We can't recapture the shock of God coming in the flesh to show us what real life looks like. Magnificat can seem 'old hat.' It's not news to us anymore, so how can it be good news? But if we are faithful in traditioning we will hear it as good news. Christopher Burkett

Pray that we may regain the excitement and vitality of the Gospellers.

Bishop Duke Akamisoko, Kubwa (Abuja, Nigeria)

24 December - Weaverham

C: Paul Withington. LM: Brian Stevens, Herbert Manley, Jules Sanders, Mike Sanders, Linda Jones, Gilly Latham.

*Bishop Danald Jute; Bishop Solomon Cheong Sung Voon (Assistant)
Kuching (South East Asia)*

25 December - Wharton

Christmas Day

C: Tim Hanson, Matt Guest. LM: Irene Greenhough.
Wharton C of E School.

Bishop Thomas Irigei, Kumi (Uganda)

26 December - Whitegate

St Stephen

C: Vacancy, John Stopford. LM: Joyce Scholefield, Pauline Hayward.
Whitegate C of E School.

Bishop Samuel Sunil Mankhin, Kushtia (Bangladesh)

27 December - St Helen, Northwich

St John The Evangelist

C: Vacant, Jane Millinchip, Mark Green. LM: Andrew Mallin-Jones, David Drinkwater, Berenice Kirwan.

This parish is in vacancy. Pray for the clergy and Readers, the Pastoral Worker and the churchwardens in their responsibilities. May it be a time of growth in discipleship and of discernment of God's calling on this church.
Witton Church Walk C of E School.

Bishop Jeremiah Kolo, Kutigi (Lokoja, Nigeria)

Archbishop Olusegun Adeyemi, Kwara (Kwara, Nigeria)

28 December - Macclesfield Deanery

The Holy Innocents

A verse from the Northumbrian Community book of Celtic Night Prayer (a litany verse recalling St Oswald):

“Stand at the crossroads and look, ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Bishop Paul Zamani, Kwoi (Abuja, Nigeria)

29 December - Bollington

C: Veronica Hydon. LM: Anne Coomes.

Give thanks for our Churchwardens and the PCC who have worked with our volunteer project manager to create better kitchen and storage facilities in St Oswald's; enhancing our ministry of hospitality to serve our community.
Bollington Cross C of E School. Bollington St John's C of E School.

Bishop Stephen Takashi Kochi, Kyoto (Japan)

30 December - Retailers

The First Sunday of Christmas

If you did your Christmas shopping on the High Street this year you will have noticed a number of formerly well-known names missing. We've all been conscious also of the cut-throat competition that characterised the intense shopping of the pre-Christmas rush. Things have changed in the world of retail – shopping has changed rapidly – store staff worry over their jobs, whilst poorly paid delivery drivers are rushed off their feet.



A sense of crisis pervades the retail world. A number of factors seem to have come together into the perfect storm: people are reluctant to spend as incomes have been squeezed and the drop in the value of the pound since the Brexit vote has made imports more expensive; online shopping becomes ever more popular; those who do go to stores now demand 'a shopping experience' and not just product availability; store companies are facing rising overheads, citing business rates and the living wage as particularly demanding; and many well-known brands have too many outlets when every site must perform at the absolutely highest level. Just what this will mean for our town centres looks problematic, and the level of stress amongst all sections of the retail trade is clearly evident.

Pray for all who work in retail and the consequences of rapid change on our High Streets.

Bishop Luke Ken-ichi Muto, Kyushu (Japan)

31 December - Henbury and Broken Cross

C: Tim Robinson, Norma Robinson.

Pray that the recently refurbished church hall will be used by the Henbury community and be a good point of contact between the church and the community.

Bishop Adebayo Akinde, Lagos Mainland (Lagos, Nigeria)

1 January - Gawsorth

C: William Pwaisiho. LM: Keith Parrott.

Give thanks for the cooperation between our parish church and the Methodist chapel in pulpit sharing, as well as joint activities in the community.

Give thanks for the ministry of Bishop Willie, retiring at the end of January.

Bishop Humphery Olumakaiye, Lagos (Lagos, Nigeria)

2 January - Bosley

C: John Harries, Kim Quak-Winslow. LM: Judith Harries.

Bosley St Mary's C of E School.

Bishop Miller Maza, Lafia (Abuja, Nigeria)

3 January - Hurdsfield

C: James Gibson. LM: Hellen Watson, Eileen Delight, Melissa Wearden, Andy Leary.

Thank God as we seek to work out our vision to follow Jesus, share His good news and see lives transformed. Pray for us as we seek to deepen our engagement with the community through the community café and community primary school.

Bishop James Odedej, Lagos West (Lagos, Nigeria)

4 January - Macclesfield St Michael & All Angels

C: Martin Stephens, Rob Wardle, Karen Brady, Andy Williams. LM: Mike Strutt, Lynne Spedding, Catherine Stephens.

Give thanks for the opportunity to welcome people to our Christmas services, especially those which have developed from our engagement with our wider community. Pray for our 'Just Wondering' course which starts next week – that 'wondering' may lead to believing. Pray for us as we use the Healthy Church approach to being a growing Christian community.

Macclesfield Christ the King RC / C of E School.

Bishop James Odedeji, Lagos West (Lagos, Nigeria)

Bishop Stanley Fube, Langtang (Jos, Nigeria)

5 January - Macclesfield St John

C: Tim Robinson, Norma Robinson.

Pray for the new Connected Community Centre, based in St John's, that it will be a good medium by which the church can reach out and witness in the local community on the Weston Estate.

Bishop Irfan Jamil, Lahore (Pakistan)

6 January - Epiphany

The Second Sunday of Christmas

'Let us now see, after the star had come to rest, after the journey of the Magi, what wondrous dignity accompanies the new born King. For immediately the Magi, falling down before the Lord, adore Him newly born, and lying in a manger, and offering gifts they venerate the infancy of a weeping babe. With the eyes of their body they saw one thing, another with the eyes of the mind. The lowliness of the assumed body is before their eyes, yet the glory of the divinity is not concealed. It is a child that is adored. And together with it the unspeakable mystery of the divine condescension! That invisible and eternal nature has not disdained, for our sakes, to take to itself the infirmities of our flesh.



The Son of God, who is the God of all things, is born a man in body. He permits himself to be placed in a crib, who holds the heavens in his hand. He is confined in a manger whom the world cannot contain; He is heard in the voice of a wailing infant, at whose voice in the hour of his passion the whole earth trembled. The Magi, beholding a child, profess that this is the Lord of Glory, the Lord of Majesty, whom Isaias has shown was both child and God, and King Eternal, saying: for a CHILD is born to us, and a son is given to us, and the government is upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, God the Mighty, the Father of the World to come, the Prince of Peace. [Isaiah 9.6]

St John Chrysostom 347-406, sermon on Epiphany.

Pray that we too may see Christ, divine and human, with the eyes of both faith and intellect.

7 January - Macclesfield St Paul

C: Michael Fox.

Please pray for our mission to extend our reach in meeting community needs; for our young people that they may grow in confidence in their faith; for ears to hear God speaking to us this year.

Bishop Eliaba Lako Obed, Lainya (Loryko, South Sudan)

8 January - North Rode

C: William Pwaisiho.

Give thanks for the achievements in providing facilities of a kitchen and toilet in church for our use, pray for young families to take a more active role and a sense of family and community who values the Church now and in the future. Give thanks for the ministry of Bishop Willie who is retiring end of January 2019.

Bishop Francis Kaulanda, Lake Malawi (Central Africa)

9 January - Pott Shrigley

C: David Swales. LM: John Ryley.

Pray that we can be a blessing to all in our parish, and to many beyond it. Pott Shrigley Church School.

Bishop Mathayo Kasagara, Lake Rukwa (Tanzania)

10 January - Prestbury

C: Patrick Angier, Avril Ravenscroft. LM: Keith Ravenscroft, Andrea Fitton, Margaret Tate, Anne Stirling.

Prestbury C of E School.

Bishop Alfred Olwa, Lango (Uganda)

11 January - Rainow with Saltersford and Forest

C: Steve Rathbone.

Bishop Carlos Simao Matsinhe, Lebombo (Southern Africa)

12 January - Sutton St James

C: John Harries, Kim Quak-Winslow. LM: Judith Harries.

*Bishop Nicholas Baines, Leeds; Bishop Toby Howarth, Area Bishop of Bradford; Bishop Jonathan Gibbs, Area Bishop of Huddersfield; Bishop Paul Slater, Area Bishop of Kirkstall; Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley, Area Bishop of Ripon; Bishop Anthony Robinson, Area Bishop of Wakefield (York, England)
Bishop Martyn James Snow, Leicester; Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani, Leicester – Loughborough (Canterbury, England)*











THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Chester