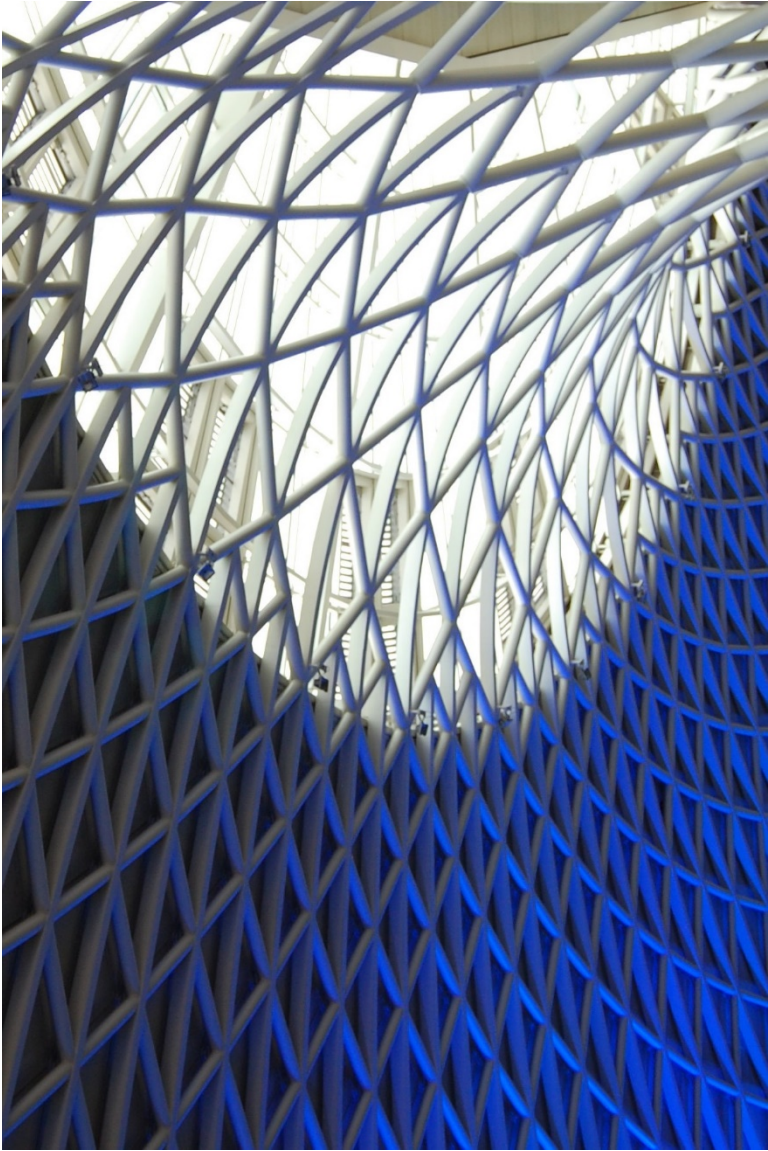


**The Diocese of Chester Cycle of Prayer
Sunday, 11 October to Saturday, 7 November 2020**



Welcome

Within this simplified version of the Diocesan Prayer Cycle you will find:

- an entry for each parish, deanery and church school (over the course of a full year)
- the names of licensed parish ministers, lay and ordained
- the bishops named in the worldwide Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer (currently under re-development)
- a Sunday entry that offers a brief reflection on one of the lections of the day

Items for possible inclusion in future editions, whether parish based or not, are welcome – please email jane.hood@chester.anglican.org.

Thanks to all who have contributed specific intentions to this edition.

I hope you find this brief listing useful in your prayers.

Christopher Burkett

Editor and Director of Ministry

Sunday, 11 October 2020

Seventeenth after Trinity

(Prompted by the Gospel set for Proper 23A)

The excuses of the invited are feeble or even insulting, a real slap in the face.

What is going on in this? The story takes place in society where things of honour and status relationships count in every circumstance. It's the invitation of a king. If we think about what comes with the invitation, or what those invited thought came with it, we might get near what's going on. Think of those royal progresses we see in film dramas about the Tudors—what an honour it was to be invited to the royal court, but the downside was that with the invitation came the obligation to host Queen Bess if she decided to return the courtesy. Entertaining the queen for a week could bankrupt you and your family!

Is that why the parable's guests make their excuses? They're afraid they will have to ask the king back. That's why their fear is so deep it turns to violence—they 'seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them.'

The king is enraged. Surely on two counts—first, the murder and the violence against those who are his emissaries; and second, because the guests were so calculating in their initial responses. There is no hint of reciprocation required in the invitation; the king's intention is wholly about joy and celebration, but they refuse to accept that. He is offering to come close to them; to share all his joy, but they will not have it. They are determined to keep their distance, whatever the cost.

To the first audience hearing the story it's plain enough. They're invited to the king's party – but most refuse; refusing to see in Jesus any invitation, and they will eventually mistreat and kill the one who is the son and the emissary amongst them. And they will do the same to the son's followers who keep the invitation before them.

Archbishop Stephen Samuel Kaziimba - Archbishop of Uganda & and Bishop of Kampala.

Monday, 12 October 2020

Knutsford Deanery

Bishop Abdu Elnur Kodi, Port Sudan (Sudan).

Bishop Dhiloraj Ranjit Canagasabey Kondoqa, Colombo (Ceylon). Bishop Given Gaula (Tanzania).

Tuesday, 13 October 2020

1401 Alderley

C: Jon Hale.

St Mary's Church re-opened for worship at the start of July but St Mary's is struggling to adjust to new realities. Due to the age of most who have been regular or occasional worshippers, and the ongoing health risks, the number of worshippers has halved. One of the churchwardens and a number of church officers have resigned due to health concerns. The possibility of pastoral reorganisation, initiated in 2019, adds to the sense of uncertainty. Please pray for St Mary's Church, in recent times a strong and confident church, but now vulnerable.

Bishop Christopher Foster, Portsmouth (England). Bishop Kimberley Lucas, Colorado (The Episcopal Church, USA). Bishop Gabriel Thuch Agot, Kongor (South Sudan).

Wednesday, 14 October 2020

1402 Chelford

C: Vacant, Fiona Robinson.

Chelford C of E School.

Bishop Allan John Kannemeyer, Pretoria (Southern Africa). Bishop Enrique Lago Zugadi, Concepcion (Chile)

Thursday, 15 October 2020

1403 Alderley Edge

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

Loving Father, give your people faith, strength and resilience to endure. We pray especially for ministry with children, the work of the foodbank, the work of those building peace in this community, for networks of people supporting each other to overcome social isolation and the continued development of our online ministry. We pray also to be guided into a closer relationship with Alderley Edge Methodist Church and also ask you to show us ways of finding solutions to financial challenges.

Bishop Rafael Morales Maldonado, Puerto Rico (The Episcopal Church, USA). Bishop Ian Douglas, Connecticut (The Episcopal Church, USA). Bishop Alan Francis Abernethy, Connor (Ireland).

Friday, 16 October 2020

1404 High Legh

C: Philip Robinson, Trish Cope, Patricia Robinson. LM: Chris Stanisstree.

Bishop Sharad Yuvraj Gaikwad, Pune (North India). Bishop William Paul Colton, Cork, Cloyne & Ross (Ireland).

Saturday, 17 October 2020

1405 Knutsford St Cross

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

Pray that in these difficult times we may continue to share effectively the good news of Jesus Christ to all God's people. We pray that our parish community will be kept safe, and that we might be a beacon of hope to our communities amidst all the uncertainty. We also pray that our ministry and mission particularly to children and families may continue to bear fruit at this difficult time.

Bishop Robert Hardwick, Qu'Appelle (Canada). Bishop Orlando Gomez, Costa Rica (Central America). Bishop Jonah Ibrahim, Kontagora (Nigeria).

Sunday, 18 October 2020

Saint Luke, the Evangelist

(Prompted by the Gospel set for the feast day)

It is not incidental that Jesus' instructions to the seventy include giving a greeting of peace. 'Peace' is a word Jesus used a lot and was his first gift to his followers after his resurrection. It connotes so much more than an absence of strife. Indeed its Hebrew equivalent – shalom – makes plain that it stretches to individual and social wellbeing. In the Hebrew scriptures it is sometimes translated as 'health' – an understanding that fits well with a celebration of Luke, the beloved physician. It speaks of peace/well-being in the widest possible of senses—between nations and communities as well as in families, between individuals, and within the heart and soul of any particular person. It is a word that shouts positive human connections as part of the will of God. It is a word to pray and think on this St Luke's day and beyond.

Archbishop Michael Curry - Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, USA).

Monday, 19 October 2020

1406 Knutsford St John the Baptist

C: Nigel Atkinson, Tom Hollingsbee, Mel Lacy, Helen Eccles. LM:Thain Flowers, Chris Johnson.

*Bishop Bruce Myers, Quebec (Canada). Bishop Christopher Cocksworth, Coventry (England).
Bishop George Cornelious Tantepudi, Krishna-Godavari (South India).*

Tuesday, 20 October 2020

1407 Lindow

C: Simon Gales.

Bishop Azad Marshall, Raiwind (Pakistan). Bishop Griselda Delgado Del Carpio, Cuba (The Episcopal Church, USA). Bishop Duke Akamisoko, Kubwa (Nigeria).

Wednesday, 21 October 2020

1408 Lower Peover

C: Murray Aldridge-Collins. LM: Ann Barlow.

Lower Peover C of E School.

Bishop Darbara Singh, Rajasthan (North India). Bishop Elijah Muteny Awet, Cueibet (South Sudan).

Thursday, 22 October 2020

1409 Marthall

C: Vacant, Fiona Robinson.

Bishop B D Prasada Rao, Rayalaseema (South India). Bishop Enrique Treviño Cruz, Cuernavaca (Mexico). Archbishop Naudal Alves Gomes (Primate) Curitiba (Brazil).

Friday, 23 October 2020

1410 Mobberley

C: Ian Blay. LM: John Grainger, Jean Underhill.

Mobberley C of E School.

Bishop João Cancio Peixoto, Recife (Brazil). Bishop Surendra Kumar Nanda, Cuttack (North India).

Saturday, 24 October 2020

1411 Over Peover

C: Murray Aldridge-Collins.

Bishop Edward Oliver Mathew Tombe, Rejaf (South Sudan). Bishop Francis Karenera, Cyangugu (Rwanda). Bishop Danald Jute, Kuching (South East Asia).

Sunday, 25 October 2020

Last Sunday after Trinity

(Prompted by the Gospel set for Proper 25A)

A lawyer pressing a case doesn't ask innocent questions. That's what training in legal cross-examination is about. There are no wasted, commonplace questions here. The question has been carefully weighed; the possible answers have already been considered. There is a point to made, and the lawyer thinks his question is the one that will make it. The lawyer thinks he knows where this is going—it's already all mapped out in his mind. At the least Jesus will look foolish; and at the best, he will condemn himself from his own lips.

It's hard to for us to imagine what that planned for response must have been in mind. Surely, they can't imagine that Jesus will speak out against the law? They certainly don't know their enemy as well as they think they do if that's a possibility they've considered. Or do they think that he will show his ignorance in his answer? If that's in their minds, then again, they are fooling themselves. In every previous encounter Jesus has shown himself deeply knowledgeable about the laws of faith. Indeed, Jesus in Matthew's Gospel is shown again and again to have a profound understanding of the law, so much so that he is portrayed as a kind of second Moses.

Can they really think that his answer will finally uncover him as faithless, ignorant or shallow? Well, yes they can, because that's what bitterness, animosity and resentment does to your discernment. The other you loath is inevitably faithless, ignorant or a dimwit, because bitterness, animosity and resentment twists what you see and hear into nothing more than what your prejudice wants to see and hear. It's so easy to see in other people: so hard to admit in ourselves. The lawyer calls him 'Teacher,' but it's sarcasm. The question he puts doesn't seek an answer, it seeks another's hurt and shame and downfall.

Archbishop John Davies - Archbishop of Wales & Bishop of Swansea & Brecon.

Monday, 26 October 2020

1412 Over Tabley

C: Philip Robinson, Trish Cope, Patricia Robinson. LM:Chris Stanisstreet.

Archbishop Michael Fape, Remo (Nigeria). Bishop Michael Augustine Owen Lewis (Primate) Cyprus and the Gulf (Jerusalem & Middle East). Archbishop Daniel Sarfo , Kumasi (West Africa).

Tuesday, 27 October 2020

1413 Rostherne with Bollington

C: Philip Robinson, Trish Cope, Patricia Robinson. LM:Chris Stanisstreet.

Little Bollington C of E School.

Bishop Joseph Garang Atem, Renk (South Sudan). Archbishop Moses Nagjun Yoo (Primate) Daejeon (Korea). Bishop Edison Irigei, Kumi (Uganda).

Wednesday, 28 October 2020

Ss Simon and Jude

1414 Toft

C: Nigel Atkinson, Tom Hollingsbee, Mel Lacy, Helen Eccles. LM:Thain Flowers, Chris Johnson.

Bishop Nicholas Knisely, Rhode Island (The Episcopal Church, USA). Bishop George R Sumner Jr, Dallas (The Episcopal Church, USA).

Thursday, 29 October 2020

1415 Wilmslow

C: Caroline Throup, Kirsty Allan, Roger Yates. LM: Anne Binnie, Sally Mullock. St Anne's Fulshaw C of E School.

Bishop John Daudi Lupaa, Rift Valley (Tanzania). Bishop Yohannah A Audu, Damaturu (Nigeria). Bishop Jackson Sosthenes, Dar-es-Salaam (Tanzania).

Friday, 30 October 2020

1417 Birtles

C: Jon Hale.

St Catherine's Church re-opened for worship at the start of July and the number of people who now worship - with social distancing - almost fills the church. If numbers increase, the more able-bodied and younger worshippers are being asked to 'Stand Outside for Others', and it remains to be seen how this will work, but St.Catherine's is the cohesive parish church of a tenacious rural community, and faith will find a way! Please pray for St Catherine's Church in its continuing ministry to its very varied parish population.

Bishop Eduardo Coelho Grillo, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). Bishop Jonathan Labasan Casimina, Davao (Philippines).

Saturday, 31 October 2020

Middlewich Deanery

Bishop Michael Vono, Rio Grande (The Episcopal Church, USA). Bishop Kevin S Brown, Delaware (The Episcopal Church, USA). Bishop Keerthisiri Fernando, Kurunegala (Ceylon).

Sunday, 1 November 2020

All Saints Day

(Prompted by the reading from Revelation set for today)

Sometimes bringing together the things of heaven with the things of earth is beyond me – but others have done so whom I can trust, and on their witness I will depend until I can make the testimony of truth for myself. All Saints season tells me that I belong – I belong to the company of Christ's people that knows none of the barriers that so easily bind us; I belong to a company that joins the past with my present and with a future yet unborn; I belong to a people who will guard and sustain me because we are all united in Christ.

What began in the garden of creation will find its fulfilment and completion in the holy city. As bound Lazarus heard the shout of Jesus from outside the darkness of his cave tomb, so we hear the shout of Christ risen calling us forward whatever our woes:

*See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.*

We stand amongst his saints, held together by his love, and knowing a companionship that is unending. There is a message of hope and a message of concern. Encourage the hurting that we are never alone in our sorrows. Share the burden and share the joy. We belong. May we know that the saints surround us.

Archbishop Jonathan Bau-Bau Bonaparte Hart - Primate & Metropolitan, Church of the Province of West Africa; Archbishop of the Internal Province of West Africa and Bishop of Liberia.

Monday, 2 November 2020

0601 Byley-cum-Lees

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

Bishop James Langstaff, Rochester (England). Bishop Prince Singh, Rochester (The Episcopal Church, USA). Bishop Samuel Sunil Mankhin (Primate), Kushtia (Bangladesh).

Tuesday, 3 November 2020

0603 Davenham

C: Rob Iveson, Ginnie Geraerts. LM: Dick Clague.

Please pray that our Sunday 9:30am formal service and 11am informal service will both encourage joy in Jesus in these difficult times – and that they will help people find Jesus and grow in love for Him and for the world around.

Davenham C of E School.

Vacant, Rockhampton (Australia). Bishop Warris K. Masih, Delhi (North India). Bishop Jeremiah Kolo, Kutigi (Nigeria).

Wednesday, 4 November 2020

0604 Delamere

C: Angela Askwith.

Delamere C of E Academy.

Bishop Francis Loyo Mori, Rokon (South Sudan). Bishop Libby Lane, Derby (England).

Thursday, 5 November 2020

0605 Hartford

C: Mike Smith, George Agar, Dimitri Alldridge, Phil Highton, James Robson. LM: David Charlton, Jeremy Hunns, Ted Argent-Belcher, Teresa Nixon.
Hartford C of E High School.

Bishop John Adiema, Rorya (Tanzania). Bishop Kenneth Raymond Good, Derry & Raphoe (Ireland). Bishop Paul Shishir Sarker, Dhaka (Bangladesh).

Friday, 6 November 2020

0606 Little Budworth

C: Paul Dawson, John Stopford. LM: Pauline Hayward.

Bishop Joseph Mgomi, Ruaha (Tanzania) Bishop Robert Innes, Europe (England). Bishop Mark D W Edington, Europe (The Episcopal Church, USA).

Saturday, 7 November 2020

0607 Lostock Gralam

C: Andrew Ridley. LM: Graham Sheen, Joyce Kenrick, Roger Kenrick.
Lostock Gralam C of E School.

Turks and Caicos Islands (West Indies). Archbishop Olusegun Adeyemihe, Kwara (Nigeria).
