Cycle of Prayer

13 January - 11 May 2019

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester
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Key:
C = Clergy
LM = Licensed Lay Minister
(Reader)
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Diocesan entries from the Anglican Cycle of Prayer are in italics.

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This Cycle of Prayer is a reminder to pray. The best reminders have a regular rhythm about them. The reminders of the importance of family life naturally take the form of anniversary events and celebrations.

The Christian Year was established for just this purpose, building upon the annual rhythm of ritual and celebration which was well developed in Jewish life. Christmas, Easter, and all the other features and festivals of the Christian Year, are there to remind us of key features of the Gospel story, and the life of the Church.

The diocesan daily Cycle of Prayer is provided as a reminder to pray – and a reminder of the central importance of prayer to the Church, and the Christian life.

+Peter
Face painting in Edgeley
‘It seems to me their faith is too much about religion and not enough about Christianity.’ The speaker was describing a couple much involved in the life of their local church who had left a lonely aged parent needing assistance to his own devices. The criticism caused me to ponder on my perhaps too easy promise to pray for people. Prayer demands that we spend time devoted absolutely to it. It is only by praying that we learn to pray. This takes effort, resolve, concentration and a certain single-mindedness that can appear to make the one who prays aloof to the concerns of every day. ‘What’s the use of praying when there’s so much to be done?’ is a question we have to take seriously. If our praying does indeed turn us away from the demands of living lovingly then there is something amiss. But prayer is not the comforting easy thing that keeps me safely from where the real action is.

Somewhere Archbishop William Temple summed up the relationship of prayer and action in these words: ‘The right relationship between prayer and conduct is not that conduct is supremely important and prayer may help it, but that prayer is supremely important and conduct tests it.’ That surely is the spur to pray and act.

Submissions for the next edition of this cycle should be sent to jane.hood@chester.anglican.org by 31st January at the latest.

Christopher Burkett
Editor and Director of Ministry
13 January - Anniversary of Manchester Ship Canal

The Baptism of Christ (Epiphany 2)

This month is the 125th anniversary of the first ship passing through the then newly opened Manchester Ship Canal. Running for 36 miles from Eastham on the Mersey estuary to Salford in Greater Manchester the canal was one of the great triumphs of Victorian engineering. Ocean-going vessels were able to navigate their way from the Irish Sea directly into the heart of industrial Manchester making it one of Britain’s busiest ports. Queen Victoria herself opened it.

The canal took seven years to complete. An army of ‘navvies’ – navigation workers – more than 16,000 men and boys at its peak, were employed. More than a thousand work injuries were recorded – 165 workers were made permanently disabled by their injuries and 130 lost their lives. Since the 1970s changes in shipping methods and the increase in ship size has meant a severe decline in the use of the canal and the closure of the terminal docks. Nevertheless, it continues to operate commercially. Pray for ways to utilize our industrial heritage for the common good.

Archbishop Philip Leslie Freier, Archbishop of Melbourne & Primate of Australia

14 January - Upton Priory

C: Vacant, Avril Ravenscroft.

Bishop Mark van Koevering, Lexington (The Episcopal Church, USA). Bishop Paul Gavin Williams; Bishop Anthony Porter, Southwell & Nottingham.

Bishop Abraham Ngor Mangong, Gogrial (South Sudan)

15 January - Wildboarclough

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

Archbishop Jonathan Bau-Bau Bonaparte Hart, Liberia (West Africa)

Bishop Dabney Smith, Southwest Florida (The Episcopal Church, USA)
16 January - Wincle
C: John Harries, Kim Quak-Winslow. LM: Judith Harries.
Wincle C of E School.
Bishop Michael Ipgrave, Bishop Geoffrey Peter Annas, Bishop Clive Gregory, Lichfield. Bishop Mark Allen Bourlakas, Southwestern Virginia (The Episcopal Church, USA)

17 January - Macclesfield St Peter (Part of Team)
C: Martin Stephens, Andy Williams, Karen Brady. LM: Judith Gibson, Catherine Stephens.
Please pray for our lay chair and churchwarden as they head up our grant-funded building project, and for the wider church community as we seek to promote the heritage of St Peter’s.

Bishop Kenneth Kearon Limerick & Killaloe (Ireland). Bishop Gretchen Rehberg, Spokane (The Episcopal Church, USA)

18 January - Macclesfield All Saints (Part of Team)
Pray for guidance and boldness as we seek to find new ways of reaching out to our local community.

Bishop Christopher Lowson, Bishop Nicholas Alan Chamberlain, Bishop David Eric Court, Lincoln. Bishop Daniel Martins, Springfield (The Episcopal Church, USA). Bishop Kadhoro Desire Makanirwa, Goma (Congo)

19 January - Macclesfield St Barnabas (Part of Team)
C: Martin Stephens, Andy Williams, Rob Wardle. LM: Fran Hiles, Glenys Hibbert, Catherine Stephens.
Give thanks for the new instruments and people leading our sung worship. Pray for faith, wisdom and boldness as we work with Cre8 in partnership to bring the love of Jesus to the community.

Bishop Alfredo Morante, Litoral Ecuador (The Episcopal Church, USA) Bishop Alan Smith, Bishop Richard Atkinson, Bishop Michael Beasley, St Albans (England). Bishop Henry Ndukuba, Gombe (Nigeria)
This year’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity resources for have been prepared by Christians from Indonesia, the largest country in South East Asia, made up of more than 17,000 islands, 1,340 different ethnic groups and over 740 local languages, united by one national language Bahasa Indonesia. With some 86% of its 260 million people estimated to be Muslim, it has the largest Islamic population of any country. About 10% of Indonesians are Christian. Indonesians have lived by the principle of gotong royong which is to live in ‘solidarity and by collaboration’, regarding all Indonesians as brothers and sisters. But gotong royong sits ill at ease with the neo-liberal approach to economics that has led to economic growth, and corruption infecting politics and business, often with devastating effects on the environment. Meanwhile those who are supposed to promote justice and protect the weak fail to do so. As a consequence, a country rich in resources bears the burden of many people living in poverty. Particular ethnic and religious groups are often associated with wealth in ways that have fed tensions.

The Christians of Indonesia found that the words of Deuteronomy, ‘Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue…’(see Deut. 16:18-20) spoke powerfully to their situation.

Extracted from the CTBI website, from where materials can be downloaded.

Pray for united witness and action to serve God’s purposes in the world.

Archbishop Shishir Sarker, Moderator, Church of Bangladesh & Bishop of Dhaka
21 January - Macclesfield Bollinbrook C of E School

Bishop Paul Bayes, Bishop Beverley Mason, Liverpool (England)
Bishop Gregory Cameron, St Asaph (Wales)
Vacant, Grafton (Australia)

22 January - Wallasey Deanery

Bishop Joseph Aba Nicanor, Liwolo Area (South Sudan)
Bishop Joanna Penberthy, St Davids (Wales)

23 January - Leasowe

C: Derek Marshall. LM: Diana Jones.
Leasowe The Holy Spirit RC/C of E School.
Bishop June Osborne, Llandaff (Wales)
Bishop Martin Seeley, Bishop Michael Harrison, St Edmundsbury & Ipswich (England). Vacant, St Helena (Southern Africa)

24 January - Liscard the Resurrection

C: Peter Cooper. LM: Graham Mitchell.
Archbishop Emmanuel Sokowamju Egbunu, Lokoja (Nigeria). Bishop Martin Breytenbach, St Mark the Evangelist (Southern Africa)

25 January - Liscard St Thomas

The Conversion of Paul
C: Robert Nelson.
Archbishop Paul Benjamin Yugusuk, Lomega (South Sudan)
Bishop Festus Yeboah-Asuamah, Sunyani (West Africa)
Bishop Ebenezer Ntlali, Grahamstown (Southern Africa)

26 January - Bishop Libby

Libby Lane, consecrated Suffragan Bishop of Stockport (York Minster 2015). On this anniversary of her consecration, pray for Bishop Libby’s ministry.

Last December an international group of church representatives, convened by the World Council of Churches (WCC), met in Charlotte, North Carolina to work on strengthening efforts and tools for health-promoting churches. The aim was to encourage churches to integrate health work into their core ministry.

Dr Mwai Makoka, WCC programme executive for Health and Healing, said, ‘We have very good theological foundations for working on health. We are not at a point where we are questioning if churches and Christians should work on health. We are well beyond that. The churches are ready. The momentum is there. So now, we want to develop tools to make sure churches and religious leaders who have their hearts in a good place, but who do not yet have a health ministry, that we can help outline different interventions they could make.’

The group worked on finding models for congregations to engage in issues of health, particularly in view of a rise in non-communicable diseases – which churches have proven they can effectively prevent. A World Health Organization officer said, ‘Seeing churches as a setting to bring in a holistic view of health, to really promote health, is a very important task to take on. To not just talk to people when they are sick, but to talk about health in order to prevent people from getting sick.’

Extracted from the WCC’s website, where more details can be found.

Pray for congregations striving to promote health and well-being.

Archbishop Naudal Alves Gomes - Primate of Brazil & Bishop of Curitiba

28 January - New Brighton St James with Emmanuel

C: Heather Atkinson. LM: Ron Jones.

Bishop Lawrence Provenzano, Long Island (The Episcopal Church, USA)
Archbishop John Davies, Swansea & Brecon (Wales)
Bishop Nathan Tome, Guadalcanal (Melanesia)
29 January - Poulton
C: Peter Cooper. LM: Rob Woodburn, Lesley Roberts, Kerri Douglas.
Bishop John Taylor, Bishop John Harvey Taylor, Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce, Los Angeles (The Episcopal Church, USA)
Bishop Ellinah Ntfombi Wamukoya, Swaziland (Southern Africa)

30 January - Seacombe
C: Peter Cooper. LM: John Riddiough.
Bishop Morris Thompson, Louisiana (The Episcopal Church, USA)
Archbishop Dr Glenn Davies, Bishop Chris Edwards, Bishop Peter Hayward, Bishop Ivan Lee, Bishop Peter Lin, Bishop Michael Stead, Sydney (Australia)
Bishop Elias Chakupewa Tabora (Tanzania)

31 January - Wallasey St Hilary
C: Alan Ward, Richard Avery. LM: Catherine Godfrey, Valerie Sparks, John Tomkins.
Bishop Robert Mumbi, Luapula (Central Africa)
Bishop Liverson Mng’onda, Taita-Taveta (Kenya)

1 February - Wallasey St Nicholas
C: Jeff Staples. LM: Louise Jones.
Bishop Peter Baldev, Lucknow (North India)
Bishop Liverson Mng’onda, Taita-Taveta (Kenya)
Archbishop Armando Guerra Soria, Bishop Silvestre Romero, Guatemala (Central America)

2 February - Moreton
The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)
C: Graham Cousins, Debbi Stott.
Moreton Christ Church C of E School.
Archbishop Stephen Dokolo Ismail Mbalah, Lui (South Sudan)
Bishop David Lai, Taiwan (The Episcopal Church, USA)
Bishop Andrew John Watson, Bishop Jo Bailey Wells, Bishop Christopher John Hill, Guildford (England)
3 February - Social Media

Fifth Sunday before Lent

Mark Zuckerberg launched Facebook from his bedroom in Harvard on February 4th 2004. It seems like Facebook has been with us a lifetime as it has developed a social media platform which all of us take for granted. By 2006 research by Student Monitor found that Facebook was the second most popular thing for undergraduates (tied with beer). Since then it has clocked up over 2 billion users.

Other social media platforms are available – and they’ve enabled people to stay in touch with friends, to find people with similar interests, to trade ideas and stay informed about local and global developments. But there are concerns that users suffer (and cause) jealousy and stress, can lack attention and can suffer from social media addiction and issues of self-esteem.

In a recent prayer video Pope Francis asked that social media platforms would be places of ‘inclusion and encounter, rather than isolation and alienation’. We need reminding that social media amplifies the bad and the good, but we do get the choice about what we pass on and amplify and what we push back and ignore.

Pray for responsible use of social media that they may build community rather than destroy relationships and self-esteem.

David Herbert

Archbishop Martin Blaise Nyaboho - Archbishop of Burundi & Bishop of Makamba

4 February - Mottram Deanery

Lord, we thank you for the support and encouragement across the deanery and for the signs of new life and growth. We pray for parishes as new incumbents settle in, for our church schools and for God’s kingdom to grow here in Mottram.

Bishop David Njovu, Lusaka (Central Africa)
Bishop Jacob Ayeebo, Tamale (West Africa)
Bishop Jacques Boston, Guinea (West Africa)
5 February - Dukinfield St John
C: Tim Hayes, Chris Viney. LM: Pat Bradshaw, Stuart Phillips.
Dukinfield St John’s C of E School.

*Bishop Jorge Pina Cabral, Lusitanian Church (Portugal)*
*Archbishop Dr Maimbo Mndolwa, Tanga (Tanzania)*

6 February - Dukinfield St Mark
C: Vacant, Jenny Dunlop. LM: Chantelle Tunnicliffe.
We thank God for everyone at St Mark’s. We pray that God will guard and guide us in this time of vacancy and we will seek to grow His Kingdom in Dukinfield.

*Bishop Eridard Kironde Nsubuga Luwero (Uganda). Bishop R Mwita Akiri, Tarime (Tanzania). Bishop Richard Condie, Bishop Christopher Jones Tasmania (Australia)*

7 February - Gee Cross
Gee Cross Holy Trinity Cof E School.

*Bishop Godfrey Mbelwa, Lweru (Tanzania). Bishop Te Kitohi Wiremu Pikaahhu, Te Pihopatanga o Tai Tokerau (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia)*

8 February - Hattersley
C: Vacant. LM: Pamela Whittaker.
We ask for guidance and strength in our vacancy, asking for God’s guidance to appoint the right person.

*Bishop Joseph Mutungi, Machakos (Kenya). Archbishop Don Tamihere, Te Pihopatanga o Tairawhiti (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia). Bishop Silvans Christian, Gujarat (North India)*

9 February - Hollingworth
C: Bruce Perrin. LM: Stephen Cook, Janet Malpas.
Please pray for the after school Youth Drop that is being established this term. Pray for the team, the effectiveness of the Eden Bus, and especially for the young people of our community.

*Archbishop Thomas Kanjirappally Oommen, Madhya Kerala (South India)*
*Vacant, Te Pihopatanga o Upoko o Te Ika (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia)*
*Bishop John Garba Danbinta, Gusau (Nigeria)*
10 February - African Instituted Churches (AICs)

Fourth Sunday before Lent

The letters AIC stand for a range of different ways of describing an increasingly important part of the worldwide church now thought to include more than 80 million people. Whether the term used is African Independent Churches, African Initiative in Christianity, African Instituted Churches, or African Indigenous Churches, the point is made that these are bodies of distinctively African formation and tradition. They have been founded in Africa by Africans and are largely for Africans.

Worship is the principal vehicle for incorporating people into AICs. Excitement, palpable joy, and an atmosphere of inclusion draws worshippers into an emotionally moving experience. Music, words, and physical movements flow with characteristic African rhythms and dynamism. Likewise, emphasis on conscious experience of the Holy Spirit and personal testimony characterise the style of these churches.

Undoubtedly AICs are a protest against church structures that too readily impose a Western worldview. Critics accuse AICs of being syncretistic and schismatic in organization. Yet their dynamism must make us question how far we ourselves are captive to culture. Their presence offers us all a chance for learning to the benefit of all.

Pray for what we may learn about worship and evangelism from AICs, and for a proper Christian critique of culture.

Archbishop Frederick Hiltz - Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada

11 February - Hyde St George with St Thomas


Lord, give us wisdom as we minister in our community, increase our faith and our vision, call us to pray and gather in your name, and help us to support those who need assistance.

Bishop Charles Collins Andaku, Madi & West Nile (Uganda). Bishop Richard Wallace, Te Pihopatanga o Upoko o Te Waipounamu (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia). Bishop Charles Davidson, Guyana (West Indies)
12 February - Millbrook
C: Tim Hayes, Chris Viney.

Bishop George Stephen Jeyaraj, Madras (South India)
Bishop Leonard Dawea, Temotu (Melanesia)

13 February - Mottram-in-Longdendale
Give thanks that our ministry is extending to new areas embracing all age groups. Please pray for our new curate Janine as she completes her training prior to her ordination and joining us in June.

Bishop Marialouis Joseph, Madurai-Ramnad (South India)
Bishop Abelino Manuel Apeleo, Temuco (Chile)
Bishop John Bauerschmidt, Tennessee (The Episcopal Church, USA)

14 February - Newton in Mottram with Flowery Field

Vacant, Mahajanga (Indian Ocean)
Bishop Paul Modi Farjala, Terekeka (South Sudan)

15 February - Stalybridge Holy Trinity
C: Gary Kennaugh. LM: Clive Hustwick, Barry Edge, David Monday.
Please pray for our relationship with local schools, businesses and shops to strengthen and for Jesus to be made known in Stalybridge. Pray for the Holy Spirit to continue to equip us and send us to our frontlines with the Gospel.

Bishop Emmanuel Morris, Maiduguri (Nigeria)
Bishop Barbara Jean Andrews, Territory of the People (Canada)
Bishop Moses Tabwaye, Gwagwalada (Nigeria)

16 February - Stalybridge St Paul
C: Emma Handley. LM: John Clements, Jacintha Manchester.
Stalybridge St Paul's C of E School.
Bishop Stephen Lane, Maine (The Episcopal Church, USA). Bishop Jeff Fisher,
Bishop Dena Harrison, Bishop Andrew Doyle, Bishop Hector Monterroso,
Texas (The Episcopal Church, USA)
17 February - Fairtrade Fortnight

Third Sunday before Lent

Fairtrade Fortnight returns from 25 February to 10 March. It’s the most important time of the year to celebrate Fairtrade achievements. This year the focus is on cocoa. Farmers of this iconic Fairtrade product have seen prices crash to crisis levels in the last few years, particularly in West Africa where most cocoa is grown. The situation highlights in stark terms the scandal of unfair trade. We have a choice about whether we take a stand against this.

Many farmers – both men and women – are underpaid and exploited. That means they can’t earn enough for the basics many of us take for granted, including food, education and housing, because they don’t earn a living income.

It’s even worse for the women who work in the fields and in the home. Despite the hard work they put in, they’re often overlooked and under-represented, and usually see even less of the money for their crop. They deserve more. So, the voices and stories of women farmers are at the heart of this Fairtrade Fortnight.

Find out more about the campaign and get ideas on how to get involved by downloading the guide from www.fairtrade.org.uk

Pray for all involved in the Fairtrade movement.

Archbishop Albert Chama - Archbishop of Central Africa & Bishop of Northern Zambia

18 February - Tintwistle

C: Bruce Perrin.

Pray for the work of Liz, our newly appointed schools/community worker as she establishes a school lunchtime club, and seeks to grow faith amongst the families of the village.

Tintwistle C of E School.

Bishop Peter Gatbel Kuenen Lual, Maiwut Area (South Sudan)
Bishop David Parsons, Bishop Darren McCartney, The Arctic (Canada)
Bishop Jean Zache Duracin, Haiti (The Episcopal Church, USA)
19 February - Wirral North Deanery

Archbishop Martin Blaise Nyaboho, Makamba (Burundi). Bishop Gladstone Adams, Bishop Charles VonRosenberg, South Carolina (USA)

20 February - Barnston


Thank God for his kindness to us, in the work of our children and youth worker, visiting schools with Walk through the Old Testament, and in the response to our new venture, The Hub, equipping everyone for ministry. Pray for people involved in caring for others.


21 February - Bebington

C: David Vestergaard, Al Rodgers, Al Metcalfe. LM: Judith Battersby, Helen Thomas, Ian Halliday, Amy Haigh, David Jack.

Bebington St Andrew’s C of E School.

Pray for continued growth, and for wisdom in deciding priorities for investing in future ministry.

Bishop Nathan Nyitar Inyom, Makurdi (Nigeria)  
Bishop Julius Njuguna Wanyoike, Thika (Kenya)

22 February - Frankby with Greasby

C: Ken Owen.

Bishop Royce Manoj Victor, Malabar (South India)  
Bishop Samuel Devasahayam Ebenezer Clement, Thoothukudi - Nazareth (South India). Bishop Alfred Karibongi, Hanuato’o (Melanesia)

23 February - Great Meols

C: Gillian Rossiter, Karl Williams. LM: Chris Branch, Lesley Young, David Moss, Julia Johnson.

Pray for us as we work and pray to grow in love for all God’s people.

Bishop Samuel Sahu; Bishop Rickson George Maomaorou, Malaita (Melanesia). Bishop Jayaraj Christdoss, Tirunelveli (South India). Bishop Chad Nicholas Gandiya, Harare (Central Africa)
24 February - World Day of Prayer (March 1)

Second Sunday before Lent
The invitation is for everyone – men, women and children of all ages to join the World Day of Prayer. Women of Slovenia, one of the smallest and youngest countries in Europe, have prepared this year’s service.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organization which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Finally, at a church near you on Friday March 1st, 2019 people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Slovenia. The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. (Extracted from WDP website (www.wwdp.org.uk); see that site for resources etc).
Pray for your local WDP service
Archbishop Julio Murray Thompson - Primate of IARCA & Bishop of Panama

25 February - Heswall
C: Martin Cannam, Lyn Weston, Josh Carlson, Jacky Wise. LM: Jennie Hewitt, Peter Twin, Brenda Wilson, Michael Barritt, Andrew Field-Davies.
Pray for progress towards building The Lighthouse Church – a new church and community hall in the heart of Heswall; our network of Parish Lifegroups, and lasting change from our participation in Setting God’s People Free.
Heswall St Peter’s C of E School.
Archbishop Hilary Garang Deng, Bishop John Gattek, Bishop John Gettek, Bishop Peter Gatbel Kunen, Bishop David Kiir Mayath, Malakal (South Sudan). Bishop Jean Paul Solo, Toamasina (Indian Ocean)

26 February - Higher Bebington
C: Mike Loach, Eunice Blackmore. LM: June Fogg, Jill Wright, Ted Jones, Pam Hollinshead.
Bishop Peter Joh Abraham Mayom, Malek (South Sudan) Bishop John Masato Yoshida, Tohoku (Japan)
27 February - Hoylake
C: Paul Rossiter, Karl Williams, John Harrison. LM: Peter Ham, Jill Rawcliffe, Ruth Calcott.
Pray for our church family that we may continue to grow in faith and love, also for the staff and pupils of our church school.
Hoylake Holy Trinity C of E School.

Bishop Peter Marial Agok, Malek Rup (South Sudan). Vacant, Tokyo (Japan)
Bishop Todd McGregor, Bishop Samitiana Jhonso Razafindralambo, Toliara (Indian Ocean)

28 February - New Ferry
C: Andy Greenhough, Peter Chamberlin. LM: Jim Cartwright, Mike Gillam.
Pray for our ‘From Sinner to Saint’ Lent course beginning next week and that it results in growing holiness among our congregation. Pray for our monthly Sunday evening ‘Real Change’ course equipping us in the pastoral care of our church community.

Bishop Lawrence Dena, Malindi (Kenya)
Bishop Peter Yuol Gur, Tonj (South Sudan)

1 March - Newton West Kirby
C: Cheryl Coverley, Ailsa Whorton. LM: Martin Smith, Anthony Hart.

Bishop David Walker, Bishop Mark David Ashcroft, Bishop Mark Davies, Manchester (England). Archbishop Bernard Oringa Balmoi, Bishop Martin Abuni, Bishop Isaac Deu Chon, Torit (South Sudan)

2 March - Thurstaston
C: Jane Turner. LM: Alan Jones.
Pray that we continue to serve Christ locally and that through ‘Setting God’s people Free’ we may be better equipped to do so.
Thurstaston Dawpool C of E School.

Bishop David Nyi Nyi Naing, Mandalay (Myanmar)
Archbishop Colin Robert Johnson, Bishop Jennifer Andison, Bishop Peter Fenty, Bishop Kevin Robertson, Bishop Riscylla Shaw, Bishop Andrew Asbil, Toronto (Canada)
This Wednesday (6th) – Ash Wednesday – Lent begins. Just how each one of us marks this season that leads to Holy Week and Easter is left to our own consciences. Many churches will be offering times of fellowship and learning that are additional to the usual round of events. And many individuals will be giving up something in the sense of doing without (it maybe chocolate, wine or biscuits) as a tangible effort. It is, however, perhaps worth considering the present context of our faith as we turn to these things.

The Christian calendar seems to be much less prominent in our national life than it previously was. If we are now in a missionary environment where many of our neighbours no longer have easy mental and physical connections to Christianity, do we need to make our keeping of Lent much more obvious and intentional? When we ask ourselves what to take on and what to give up should our answers be more deliberately focussed on being able to give an account of the faith we hold in what we are doing?

Pray for wisdom in the keeping of Lent. May we all learn of Christ and witness to Christ in what we do.

Archbishop Héctor (Tito) Zavala Muñoz - Bishop of Santiago & Primate

4 March - Upton (Overchurch)

C: Nicola Eastwood, Stephanie Warrell. LM: Alison Collins, Rhonda Anson, Peter Davies, Lorraine Williams, Malcolm Kydd, Laura Arnold, Cat Farrell, Gaynor Kydd, Malcolm Haigh, Rebecca Steele.

Bishop Erick Ruwona, Manicaland (Central Africa)
Bishop Saw John Wilme, Toungoo (Myanmar)
Bishop Robert Fitzpatrick, Hawaii (The Episcopal Church, USA)
5 March - West Kirby St Andrew
C: Peter Walsh. LM: Ken Jones.
Pray for the keeping of a good and Holy Lent.

Bishop William Madding Machar, Maper (South Sudan)
Bishop Dr D. Chandrasekaran, Trichy-Tanjore (India)

6 March - West Kirby St Bridget
Ash Wednesday
C: John Bleazard, David Chester. LM: Brian Dodd, John Smith, Graham Crowder.
West Kirby St Bridget's C of E School.

Bishop George Okoth, Mara (Tanzania)
Bishop Claude Berkley, Trinidad & Tobago (West Indies)
Bishop Christopher David Goldsmith, Truro (England)

7 March - Poulton Lancelyn
C: Roger Wiles. LM: Michael Clarkson, Paul Crowther, Alan Jones.
Thank God for the ongoing witness of The Wirral Gospel Partnership of which we are part, and pray for upcoming events: our joint Prayer Breakfast on 16th March and our Faith in Football event with Bill Bygroves on 22nd March. Continue praying for our gospel outreach into Spital and for the growth of all our services, through people coming to faith. Thank God for our staff team.

Bishop Jacob Lesuuda, Maralal (Kenya)
Bishop Patrick William Rooke, Tuam, Killala & Achonry (Ireland)

8 March - Bishop Keith
Keith Sinclair, consecrated Suffragan Bishop of Birkenhead (York Minster, 2007). On this anniversary of his consecration, pray for Bishop Keith's ministry.

Bishop Madhukar Kasab, Marathwada (North India)
Bishop Ezekiel Diing Ajang Malangdit, Twik East (South Sudan)
Bishop Richard Frith, Bishop Alistair James Magowan, Hereford (England)

9 March - Nantwich Deanery

Archbishop Justin Badi Arama, Maridi (South Sudan)
Bishop Chjioke Augustine Aneke, Udi (Nigeria)
Bishop Charles Mthetheleli May, Highveld (Southern Africa)
Alas it’s a familiar story... Mike is a self-employed plumber. His church prays regularly for his important role as a PCC member, but not for his and the many other local small businesses. Sue is prayed for weekly as she leads Sunday School for 45 minutes, but never has anyone prayed for the 45 hours she spends teaching in a school. The church thanks God for Dot’s work organizing their social events, but barely notices her weekly volunteering in a charity shop. Yet God is interested in every part of life: ‘whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus’ (Col. 3:17a). The report ‘Setting God’s People Free’ seeks to inspire us to whole-life discipleship, encouraging each other to live out the good news of Jesus, and follow Him with confidence, in all areas of our lives, Monday to Saturday as well as Sunday. Intentionally praying for one another’s weekday work-life is a powerful and uplifting means to do this.

Pray for all whose Christian faith is both a witness and guiding influence at work, as they make financial decisions, appraise a member of staff, use their creativity, wrestle with an ethical issue, support a troubled workmate … or just labour hard to the end of the working day. And if you are praying for someone you know – tell them!

Andrew Knight.

Archbishop Zacharie Masimango Katanda - Archbishop of the Congo & Bishop of Kindu

11 March - Acton

C: Anne Lawson.
Give thanks for ‘Tea at the Tower’ every Sunday. We are now a recognised Place of Welcome. Our local Police Community Support Officers have also started a Rural Pop Up Police Shop in St Mary’s. Acton C of E School.

Bishop Moses Zungo, Maridi (Uganda). Bishop Cyril Odutemu, Ughelli (Nigeria). Bishop Matthias Mededues-Badohu, Ho (West Africa)
12 March - Audlem

25th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women Priests
C: Helen Chantry, Rachael Griffiths. LM: Anne Draper, Jill Williams. Give thanks for all the opportunities we have to be part of village life, and to share God’s love with local people and visitors. Thanks to God for the team who contribute to the life of our church. Please pray, too, for the staff, children and governors of our local school. Audlem St James C of E School.

Bishop Daniel Qampicha, Marsabit (Kenya)
Bishop Moses Madywabe, Ukhahlamba (Southern Africa)

13 March - Baddiley

C: Alison Fulford. LM: Ron High, Cynthia Gorton, Elizabeth Falding, Roger Howarth.

Bishop Eugene Sutton, Vacant Maryland (The Episcopal Church, USA)
Bishop Samuel Kelechi Eze, Ukwa (Nigeria)
Archbishop Ikechi Nwachukwu Nwosu, Umuahia (Nigeria)

14 March - Burleydam

C: Alison Fulford. LM: Elizabeth Falding, Ron High, Cynthia Gorton, Roger Howarth, Debbie Rowlands.

Bishop James Almasi, Masasi (Tanzania)
Bishop Brighton Vitta Malasa, Upper Shire (Central Africa)

15 March - Church Minshull

C: Anne Lawson. Give thanks for the ongoing development of Café Church and opportunities to share this event with others so that similar services can be started elsewhere.

Bishop Joshua Owiti, Maseno East (Kenya)
Bishop Andrew Waldo, Upper South Carolina (The Episcopal Church, USA)
Archbishop Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu, Hokkaido (Japan)

16 March - Coppenhall

C: Charles Razzall.

Bishop Charles Kaskan Asilutwa, Maseno North (Kenya)
Bishop Scott Hayash), Utah (The Episcopal Church, USA)
Bishop Lloyd Allen, Honduras (The Episcopal Church, USA)
17 March - Missional Fundraising

One of the ways I serve parishes in the Diocese is by offering guidance on fundraising for church building/hall projects to make them fit for the purpose God intended.

At its heart, the activity of fundraising by churches is missional. It’s about giving a positive and enthusiastic witness to the goodness of God – what He has done and what He will do; in other words, ‘going public’ about what the church stands for, its values, role, impact in communities, hopes and dreams to make life here on earth as it is in heaven.

Fundraising is very outward focused, making new links with people, such as gathering evidence of need and sharing the vision; also communicating in a way that all can understand and be inspired by.

Fundraising puts people first, caring for those who give and seeing the potential to begin or deepen their faith journey. Also, releasing gifts in the church, as people come together to make the project happen.

Overall, fundraising is a prayerful approach – open to and dependent on God’s direction and ability to move people’s hearts. This year, let us be bold, outward focussed and enthusiastic as we invite people on an amazing journey as God grows His kingdom in our Diocese.

Emily Allen, Church Buildings Development Officer, Mission Team

Pray for fundraising that is in intent faithful and faith-focused.

Archbishop and Rt Hon Justin Welby - Archbishop of Canterbury

18 March - Crewe All Saints and St Paul


Bishop Francis Abiero, Maseno South (Kenya)
Bishop Prince Asukwo Antai, Uyo (Nigeria)
Archbishop Paul Kwong, Hong Kong Island (Hong Kong)
19 March - Crewe St Andrew with St John the Baptist

Joseph of Nazareth
C: Lynne Cullens, Catherine Cleghorn. LM: Pam Brookfield.

Bishop Joseph Wasonga, Maseno West (Kenya)
Bishop Samuel Morrison, Valparaiso (Chile)

20 March - Crewe St Barnabas

C: Ralph Powell.
Oh God of our fathers, who didst move thy servants to build this house of prayer to the glory of thy name; grant that we and all that call upon thy holy name from age to age may by the praises of our lips and the offering of our lives, aided by the prayers of St Barnabas, seek evermore only thy honour and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bishop George Kasangaki, Masindi-Kitara (Uganda). Bishop James Tama, Vanuatu (Melanesia). Bishop Thomas Ely, Vermont (USA)

21 March - Crewe St Peter

C: Jane Colley, Catherine Cleghorn. LM: Jim Shepherd.

Bishop Alan McIntosh Gates, Bishop Gayle Harris, Massachusetts (The Episcopal Church, USA). Vacant, Victoria Nyanza (Tanzania)

22 March - Crewe Green

C: Vacant. LM: Anne Thompson, Linda Clarke, Ron Taylor.

Bishop Godfrey Tawonezwi, Masvingo (Central Africa)
Bishop Ambrose Gumbs, Virgin Islands (The Episcopal Church, USA)
Bishop Saw Mark Maung Doe, Hpa-an (Myanmar)

23 March - Doddington

C: Helen Chantry, Rachael Griffiths.
Please give thanks for our worshipping community and pray that our trust in God's love and grace will keep growing. Please also pray for the children, staff and governors at our local school.

Bishop Cleophas Lunga, Matabeleland (Central Africa)
Bishop Shannon Johnston, Bishop Susan Ellyn Goff, Virginia (USA). Bishop Linda Nicholls, Bishop Terrance Arthur Dance, Huron (Canada)
‘I hate myself,’ said the blonde haired, blue eyed 15-year-old, an incredibly talented skier.
‘I’m scared of my Mum,’ said the tall lad who was gentle as a lamb.
‘He made me do things I didn’t want to do,’ said the thirteen-year-old girl after meeting a boy.
‘Why do boys hurt girls?’ wrote an eleven-year-old in response to the question, ‘What would you ask God?’

These are just some of the stories of young people from my time working with young generations. God has broken my heart for children and young people; I long to see them loved, valued and given the opportunity to encounter Christ in the midst of a troubled world. That’s why I’m inviting you to pray for young generations, all children, young people and families in your area on the first Thursday of every month. As we bring our prayers to God may we also offer to become the instruments of transformation in our communities for young generations.

Jonathan Masters, Youth, Children and Families’ Missioner

Pray for children and young people in your community and in the churches.

Archbishop Paul Kwong - Archbishop of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui & Bishop of Hong Kong Island

25 March - Haslington

The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary
C: Vacant. LM: Anne Thompson, Linda Clarke, Ron Taylor.

Bishop Seth Ndayirukiye, Matana (Burundi)
Bishop Saman Farajalla Mahdi, Wad Medani (Sudan)
Bishop Kaleem John, Hyderabad (Pakistan)
26 March - Leighton-cum-Minshull Vernon
C: Philip Goggin. LM: Elizabeth Morris, Patricia Baker.
Pray we may find new ways to reach out and serve the local community.

  Bishop Stephen Diseko, Matlosane (formerly Klerksdorp) (Southern Africa)
  Bishop Andrew Hedge, Waiapu (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia)

27 March - Nantwich

  Bishop Ian Gerald James Ernest, Mauritius (Indian Ocean)
  Archbishop Philip Richardson, Vacant, Waikato & Taranaki (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia)
  Bishop John Parkes, Wangaratta (Australia)

28 March - Weston
C: Vacant. LM: Jeanette Lewis, Margaret Hodgkinson.

  Bishop Chamberlain Chinedu Ogunedo, Mbaise (Nigeria)
  Bishop Christian Esezi Ideh, Warri (Nigeria)

29 March - Wistaston
C: Mike Turnbull. LM: David Illing, Ann Stubbs.

  Bishop Patrick Gidudu, Mbale (Uganda)
  Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde, Washington (The Episcopal Church, USA)
  Archbishop Joseph Akinfẹwa, Ibadan (Nigeria)
  Bishop Segun Okubadejo, Ibadan North (Nigeria)
  Bishop Akintunde Popoola, Ibadan South (Nigeria)

30 March - Worleston
Give thanks for the School and Community Communion Services which now take place once each half term and have become an important part of the life of the school. Pray that more people from the wider community will also take opportunity to join in.
St Oswald’s Worleston C of E School.

  Bishop Henry Okeke, Mbamili (Nigeria)
  Archbishop Moses Deng Bol, Wau (South Sudan)
  Bishop Wilson Elias Kamani, Ibba (South Sudan)
31 March - Mothers’ Union

Lent 4 (Mothering Sunday)
The Mothers’ Union is not just for mothers. It’s not even just for women; many men are members. Founded in 1876, The Mothers’ Union has grown into a worldwide Christian organization which seeks to support families of all sorts in all sorts of situations. In Solomon Islands the Mothers’ Union teaches parenting skills to fathers in prison, runs literacy programmes and organizes savings schemes. In the war stricken Democratic Republic of Congo, Mothers’ Union members are working with victims of domestic abuse and with refugees. Closer to home, the Diocese of Chester has over 130 branches whose members are involved with a wide variety of projects ranging from prison visiting to staffing a tent at the Cheshire Show where carers can bring very young children to change nappies and take a quick break from the bustle of the showground. Other projects include taking ‘virtual babies’ into schools to help educate teenagers, male and female, about the nitty gritty of caring for a baby, and providing holidays for families in difficult circumstances who desperately need a break. Prayer is at the heart of The Mothers’ Union’s work across the world as it seeks to transform lives and communities at grass roots level and as it campaigns on issues affecting family life, women’s and girls’ rights and the protection of children. This Mothering Sunday, please ask God to bless this work and to make his loving care known through it.

Jenny Gilbertson, Reader

Archbishop James Richard Wong Yin Song - Archbishop, Province of Indian Ocean & Bishop of the Seychelles

1 April - Wrenbury

C: Alison Fulford. LM: Debbie Rowlands, Cynthia Gorton, Elizabeth Falding, Ron High, Roger Howarth.

Bishop Moses Masamba Nthukah, Mbeere (Kenya)
Bishop Justin Duckworth, Bishop Eleanor Sanderson, Wellington (Aotearoa NZ & Polynesia). Bishop Joseph Musa, Idah (Nigeria)
2 April - Wybunbury

C: Helen Chantry, Rachael Griffiths.
Pray to share the love of God with each other, our local community, our local schools, and for all the children and families we have contact with. Wybunbury Delves C of E School. Stapeley Broad Lane C of E School.

Bishop Elliot Williams, Mbhashe (Southern Africa)
Bishop Gabriel Kuol Garang, Wernyol (South Sudan)

3 April - Wettenhall

Coffee and Cake is now a feature of church and village life on first Thursdays. Give thanks for the rural community whose generosity raised the money for a defibrillator.

Archbishop Patricia Louise Storey, Meath & Kildare (Ireland). Bishop Johnson Twinomujuni, West Ankole (Uganda). Bishop Henry Katumba-Tamale, West Buganda (Uganda)

4 April - Warmingham

Pray that the church, the church school, and the new-build village hall find ways to work together synergistically.
Warmingham C of E School.

Bishop A.C. Solomon Raj, Medak (South India)
Bishop Alfred Acur Okodi, West Lango (Uganda)

5 April - Wirral South Deanery

Archbishop Philip Leslie Freier, Bishop Paul Barker, Bishop Dr Bradley Billings, Bishop Kate Prowd, Bishop Genieve Blackwell, Melbourne (Australia)
Bishop Martin Field, West Missouri (USA)

6 - April - Backford

C: Steve Mansfield.
Pray for a stronger identity, sense of purpose and links within the community and for ways to build on ministry of the church school.
Mollington St Oswald’s C of E School.

Bishop Charles Mwendwa, Meru (Kenya)
Archbishop Ng Moon Hing, Bishop Charles Samuel, Bishop Jayson Selvaraj, West Malaysia (South East Asia). Bishop Brian Thom, Idaho (USA)
7 April - Our Common Future
Lent 5 (Passiontide begins)

Last year the Archbishop of Canterbury delivered a lecture at Canterbury Christ Church University on the theme Reimagining Britain. His words offer us a prayerful pause for thought and action in critical times:

The thesis of this lecture is that we are at a remarkable time of opportunity and choice for our nation, but the way in which that opportunity is seized or missed (not merely which happens - the way in which it is seized or missed) depends on the values which underlie our choices. We may seize the opportunities that lie before us, ... ... and yet build a country which is dysfunctional, dystopian and fearful for all those who are not successful and rich, which will be the overwhelming majority.

Or we may find that although the challenges of the next few years are enormous, we yet have a society in which inequality is reduced, those in need are cared for, the vast majority have satisfactory and fulfilling lives, and we are proud to belong to our country, not only by our birth and our belonging, but also because of what it achieves.

The full text, from which this extract is taken, is at www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/

Pray for considered and compassionate choices in the institutions of our common life.

Archbishop Richard Lionel Clarke - Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland and Metropolitan

8 April - Bromborough

C: Jenny Gillies. LM: Lynne Whittaker.

Guide us in our plans for setting up a new Cafe Church, growing our involvement with the community and developing the building. Please help us to raise the finances that are needed to sustain and grow.

Bishop Carlos Touche-Porter (Mexico)
Bishop Don Johnson, West Tennessee (The Episcopal Church, USA)
Archbishop Caleb Maduoma, Ideato (Nigeria)
9 April - Burton

Bishop Wendell Gibbs, Michigan; Bishop David Reed, West Texas; Bishop Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, West Texas (USA)

10 April - Capenhurst
C: Steve Mansfield.  LM: Jo Pemberton.
Pray for confidence for church members to talk to others about Jesus. Capenhurst C of E School.

Bishop Steven Miller, Milwaukee; Bishop William Michie Klusmeyer, West Virginia (USA). Bishop Edafe Emamezi, Western Izon (Nigeria)

11 April - Eastham
Pray for the Spirit of God to continue to guide and sustain us, and for a new family worker. Millfields C of E School.

Bishop Daniel Abu Yisa, Minna (Nigeria)
Bishop Michael Milliken, Western Kansas (USA)

12 April - Ellesmere Port

Bishop Brian Prior, Minnesota (The Episcopal Church, USA)
Bishop Andrew Chan, Western Kowloon (Hong Kong)
Bishop Ezekiel Dahunsi, Idoani (Nigeria)

13 April - Great Saughall
C: Steve Mansfield, Heather Pang.
Pray for our ministry to children and young families; and that we find delight in seeing God’s work. Saughall All Saints’ C of E School.

Bishop Lydia Mamakwa, Bishop Isaiah Larry Beardy, Mishamikoweesh (Canada). Bishop Jacob W Owensby, Western Louisiana (USA). Bishop Olubunmi A Akinlade, Ife; Bishop Oluseyi Oyelade, Ife East (Nigeria)
14 April - The Palm Liturgy

Palm Sunday

This is the earliest description of a palm liturgy taken from the account of a Holy Land pilgrimage (Itinerarium Egeriae) in the years 381-4:

[After the reading of the palm gospel from Matthew] the bishop and all the people rise from their places, and start off on foot down from the summit of the Mount of Olives. All the people go before him with psalms and antiphons, all the time repeating: ‘Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.’ The babies and the ones too young to walk are carried on their parents’ shoulders. Everyone is carrying branches, either of palm or olive, and they accompany the bishops in the very way the people did when once they went down with the Lord. They go on foot all down the Mount to the city, and all through the city to the Anastasis [the church of the resurrection], but they have to go pretty gently on account of the older women and men among them who might get tired.

Pray that we like our forebears may in heart, mind and actions accompany Our Lord in this Holy Week.

Archbishop Suheil Dawani - Archbishop, Jerusalem & the Middle East & Archbishop in Jerusalem

15 April - Great Sutton


Bishop Brian Seage, Mississippi (The Episcopal Church, USA)
Bishop Douglas Fisher, Western Massachusetts (The Episcopal Church, USA)
Bishop Nathaniel Oladejo Ogundipe, Ifo (Nigeria)

16 April - Hooton

C: Keith Howard. LM: Peter Vaughan.

Pray for our work amongst the youngsters and children at our school.
Little Sutton C of E School.

Bishop Wayne Smith, Missouri (The Episcopal Church, USA)
Bishop Ricardo Joel Gómez Osnaya, Western Mexico (Mexico)
17 April - Neston

Our mission is to create stepping stones from Toddler Groups into family worship, from youth contact into feeling a part of the Church and discussion into faith and mature fellowship.

Bishop Stephen Kaziimba, Mityana (Uganda)
Bishop Whayne Hougland, Western Michigan (USA)
Bishop William Franklin, Western New York (USA)

18 April - Shotwick

Maundy Thursday

Bishop Alphonce Mwaro Baya, Mombasa (Kenya)
Bishop John Organ, Western Newfoundland (Canada)
Bishop José Antonio McLoughlin, Western North Carolina (USA)

19 April - Thornton Hough

Good Friday
C: Vacant. LM: Anna Leadbetter.
We thank God for the parish of Thornton Hough and for all who have brought you glory at All Saints Church. May you guide the future of this church, give wisdom to all those discerning whom you are calling to be our vicar and lead us to work together to build your Kingdom for the glory of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bishop Richard Pain, Monmouth (Wales)
Bishop Sadock Makaya, Western Tanganyika (Tanzania)
Bishop Emmanuel Adekola, Igbomina (Nigeria)

20 April - Willaston

C: Stephen Bazely, Lyndon Bannon.
Pray as we re-order the church that it would provide further opportunities to share the love and joy of knowing Christ.
Willaston C of E School.

Bishop C. Franklin Brookhart, Montana (The Episcopal Church, USA)
Bishop Abraham Kobina Ackah, Wiawso (West Africa)
Bishop Olajide Adebayo, Igbomina - West (Nigeria)
That great ecumenist and missionary bishop, Lesslie Newbigin, used to tell the story of an incident during the atheistic Russian Revolution. Nickolai Bukharin, then at the height of his powers in the Revolutionary Politburo, was despatched to address a huge anti-God rally in Kiev. In an address lasting more than an hour, he brought all the powers of his formidable intellect to bear. He heaped ridicule on the absurdities of the Christian faith until no one could doubt what a sham it was.

At the end of his speech there was a stunned silence. Questions were invited, and a man, who was an Orthodox priest, asked if he might speak. Standing on the platform next to the revolutionary he faced the crowd and said simply, ‘Christos Voskresje – Christ is Risen.’ And instantly the whole crowd replied in thunderous unison, ‘Vojestene Voskreje – He is Risen Indeed.’

The revolutionary had no reply. When met with the ancient liturgical greeting of Easter, the crowd could do no other than reply with the certainty that yes, He is Risen Indeed. Inner conviction and sense of self before God and neighbour outweighed all the rhetoric of communism. May such ‘seeing’ that goes beyond the eyes and mind to our very hearts and souls be ours this joyful day.

Rejoice in fellowship with all God’s people.

Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson, Montreal (Canada)
Bishop John Stead, Willochra (Australia)
Bishop Ezekiel Awosoga, Ijebu (Nigeria)
Bishop Solomon Kuponu, Ijebu - North (Nigeria)
23 April - Stockport Deanery
Bishop Thomas Corston, Moosonee (Canada)
Bishop Tim Dakin, Bishop Jonathan Frost, Bishop David Grant Williams, Winchester (England)

24 April - Brinnington with Portwood
C: Vacant. LM: Brenda Baxendale.
Brinnington St Paul's C of E School.
Archbishop Mark Strange, Moray, Ross & Caithness (Scotland)
Bishop C. Leopold Friday, Windward Islands (West Indies)
Bishop Matthew Taban Peter, Wondurba (South Sudan)

25 April - Offerton
C: Christine Rablen. LM: Marie Flint.
Bishop James Kenyi Elia, Morobo (South Sudan)
Bishop John Inge, Bishop Graham Usher, Worcester (England)

26 April - Edgeley and Cheadle Heath
C: David Brewster, Julie Johnson. LM: David Brown, Heather Adams, Lucy Brewster.
Edgeley St Matthew’s C of E School.
Bishop Godfrey Sehaba, Morogoro (Tanzania)
Bishop Zacharia Mangar Apeti, Wulu (South Sudan)
Bishop Joseph Olusola, Ijesa North East (Nigeria)

27 April - Stockport St Mary
C: Vacant. LM: Rita Waters.
Bishop Timothy Gichere. Mount Kenya Central (Kenya)
Bishop Timothy Ranji, Bishop Charles Muturi, Mount Kenya South (Kenya)
Bishop Joseph Kagunda, Mount Kenya West (Kenya)
Leonardo da Vinci died on 2nd May 1519. That these five hundred years later many of his works are commonplace within the popular imagination means he must rank as one of the most influential artists of all time. His skill in drawing, painting and sculpting was augmented by his abilities in mechanics, carpentry, metallurgy, chemistry, and architectural design. For many people he is the very embodiment of the idea of a Renaissance polymath.

Born in 1452 in a village in Tuscany, from the age of 14 he served a nine-year long apprenticeship in the studio of Andrea del Verrocchio in Florence. It wasn’t until the mid-1470s that he set up on his own. Responding to commissions in different places he worked in Milan, Venice and Mantua before returning to Florence. His distinctive improvement on perspective rapidly established his reputation. During a later return to work in Milan he developed a keen interest in how things work, evidenced in many famous drawings. Eventually Leonardo became architect, artist and mechanic to King Francis I of France. He died as part of Francis’ court and was buried in Amboise.

Famed for his lack of ambition Leonard was, however, keenly aware of his own abilities. Those abilities made him not only the inspiration of many other artists, but also the source of continuing artistic values across the centuries and until now.

Offer thanks for the power of art to inspire and engage, and for all that changes our view of the world for the better.

Archbishop Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu - Primate of The Nippon Sei Ko Kai & Bishop of Hokkaido

29 April - Stockport St Peter

St George (transferred)
C: Vacant.

Bishop Stanley Elilekia Hotay, Mount Kilimanjaro (Tanzania)
30 April - Stockport St Saviour

St Mark (transferred)
C: Diane Cookson. LM: Madeleine Watts.

*Bishop Daniel Kgomosotho, Mpumalanga (Southern Africa)*
*Bishop John Smylie, Wyoming (USA)*

1 May - Stockport St Thomas

Ss Philip and James
C: Vacancy.
Stockport St Thomas’ C of E School.

*Bishop Jacob Erasto Chimeledya, Mpwapwa (Tanzania). Archbishop Peter Munde Yacoub, Yambio (South Sudan). Archbishop Stephen Than Myint Oo, Bishop Samuel Htang Oak Yangon (Myanmar)*

2 May - Stockport St George

C: Elaine Chegwin Hall, Alec Corio. LM: Audrey Manzano, Michael Coupe, Peter Hall.
Pray for an outpouring of God’s Holy Spirit as we seek God’s will for our parish. We give thanks for the new shoots that are starting to appear and ask for God’s help as we explore ways to build our prayer life, our response to giving and our connections to the wider community.
Stockport St George’s C of E School.

*Bishop Hummingfield Ndwandwe, Mthatha (formerly St John’s) (Southern Africa). Bishop Hilary Adeba Luate, Yei (South Sudan)*

3 May - Norbury Hazel Grove

C: Richard Lawry, Rob Green, Val Hindmarsh. LM: Lynn Smith, Margaret Darbyshire, Alan Brown, Richard Crocker, Val Gilchrist, Cath Downs.
Please pray for those studying and training; for enrichment of our worship - traditional and creative; for our children and youth work; and for confidence for members to invite others to church.

*Bishop Cranmer Mugisha, Muhabura (Uganda). Bishop John Abraham Nyari, Yeri (South Sudan). Bishop Paul Olarewaju Ojo, Ijumu (Nigeria)*

4 May - God Loves Offerton

C: Phil Harris.

*Bishop James William Ssebaggala, Mukono (Uganda). Bishop Michael Adebayo Oluwarohunbi, Yewa; Bishop Yusuf Janfalan, Ikara (Nigeria)*
Finding this particular anniversary requires careful searching – indeed, it might easily be forgotten in light of the nationwide 150th anniversary celebrations three years ago, that it happened at all. The first women Readers were licensed only 50 years ago this year, in 1969. Their licensing is cause for celebration. In many parishes and churches the first women's voices to be heard leading worship and preaching were those of Readers. In many dioceses women outnumber men in the ranks of licensed Readers, Chester numbers are about even.

To be a Reader is to acknowledge and honour a vocation that often requires willing sacrificial giving of time and energy to the mission of God in the world and the preaching of the Gospel in the church. They bear the privilege and responsibility of the Bishop’s licence. Women Readers led the way in women’s ministry, having been recognised long before women priests.

This anniversary gives opportunity to those of us who have followed in their footsteps to acknowledge their contribution to women’s ministry, and to thank them for it. They are our sisters in Christ, called and authorized to help the whole Church to participate in God’s mission to the world.

Liz Shercliff, Director of Studies for Readers

Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit - Primate and Archbishop of All Kenya
7 May - Birkenhead Deanery

Bishop Prakash Patole, Mumbai (Formerly Bombay) (North India)
Bishop Ignatius Osamu Irie, Yokohama (Japan)

8 May - Bidston

C: Ron Iveson. LM: Jayne Morsley, Rob Morsley.
Bidston Village C of E Parish School.

Bishop Joseph Wandera, Mumias (Kenya)
Bishop Markus Ibrahim, Yola (Nigeria). Archbishop & Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu, Bishop Paul John Ferguson, Bishop John Bromilow Thomson,
Bishop Glyn Webster, Bishop Alison White, York (England)

9 May - Birkenhead Priory

C: Paul Bentley. LM: Denise Price.
Birkenhead The Priory C of E School.

Bishop Bismark Monday Avokaya Azumu, Mundri (South Sudan)
Bishop Ellison Quity, Ysabel (Melanesia)

10 May - Birkenhead St James with St Bede

Pray for our Eden Team - part of the Message Trust, who serve the people of our Parish with compassion and respect, reaching out to people with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Bishop Samuel Lomue Eluzai, Mundu Area (South Sudan)
Bishop Larry David Robertson, Yukon (Canada)
Bishop Peter Onekpe, Ikka (Nigeria)

11 May - Birkenhead Christ Church

C: Vacant, Allan Goode. LM: Judith Newburn, Jackie Harness, Janice Gilbert.
Pray that wherever we are in our vacancy the Spirit will continue to stir us into compassionate action within our communities.
Birkenhead Christ Church C of E School.

Bishop Julius Karanu Wa Gicheru, Muranga South (Kenya)
Bishop Benjamin Vanger, Zaki-Biam (Nigeria)
Bishop Blessing Enyindah, Ikwerre (Nigeria)
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester