



## LOVING ONE ANOTHER OUR FRIDAY PRAYER THEME FOR OCTOBER

2025

**Loving One Another (including Ethnic Diversity, Race Equality, *Difference*, Living in Love & Faith, Black History Month, Reconciliation and Conflict)**

Being a reconciling presence in the heart of our communities. When we see divisions around us in the world and close to home, the *Difference* course is equipping communities and individuals to build community cohesion, navigate disagreement, and cross divides through our everyday encounters. At an international level, our cathedral continues to promote reconciliation through the Community of the Cross of Nails. (from *Strategic Vision Framework 'Our Shared Future'*)

**difference.**

### DIFFERENCE,

from Rita Yoe, Youth & Children Engagement Manager  
The Archbishop of Canterbury's Reconciliation Ministry

In the *Difference* course, we often say that peace begins in the habits that we cultivate. As we seek to love one another well, we're reminded that with God's help, we can build deeper, more honest, and more Christlike relationships by practicing these habits in our prayer life and in all our encounters with others: *Be Curious, Be Present, and Reimagine.*

*Difference* is a resource for churches and schools to explore following Jesus in our messy, hurting and divided world—taking up God's call to be reconcilers. Learn more at [difference.rln.global](https://difference.rln.global)

[Reconciliation](#) | [The Archbishop of Canterbury](#)

See the Diary on page 2 for what Rita says they call "the Encounter Prayer, used at the closing of each *Difference* session."

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH



"The theme for Black History Month UK 2025 is *"Standing Firm in Power and Pride,"* a powerful tribute to the resilience, strength, and unwavering commitment to progress that defines the Black community across the globe. This year, the theme highlights the profound contributions made by Black people, be they leaders, activists, or pioneers who have shaped history, while also looking towards a future of continued empowerment, unity, and growth."

Neil Masih, Intercultural Mission Enabler

### Some key dates during Black History Month, in Neil's diary,

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October:** Celebrating Diversity Sermon @ St. Mark's, Leamington Spa

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 10am-12.30pm:** CDM training: Racial justice in a white-led church @ St George's, Rugby

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 6.30pm - 9.00pm:** An evening of Music and Celebration of Diversity @ St. Pauls Foleshill Coventry (70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October:** Celebrating Diversity Sermon – Sermon @ St. Paul's, Foleshill

A number of key interviews and reflections will be available across the Diocesan media platforms to highlight diversity within our Diocese including reflections, stories sharing the joys and challenges of the UKME/GMH Christians.

**'Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you for the glory of God' Romans 15:7**

Executive Head (EH), Inter-regnum (IR), clergy (C)

Page 3 more specific requests.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Readers in Coventry North Deanery</b> Donald Parr, Margaret East. <b>With PTO:-</b> John Lloyd, Geoff Wilcox, Colin Holtum, Fey Holtum, Clement Wedderburn			<b>Coventry North Deanery</b> Acting AD –Fr Simon Oakes LC – Ann Weitzel	<b>Finance,, Resources &amp; Risk Committee (for Diocese)</b>	<b>Celebrate the image of God in all people</b> Genesis 1.27	<b>Coffee Tots @ The Wave Waterpark</b>
<b>16<sup>th</sup> AFTER TRINITY 5</b> <b>St Laurence's, Foleshill –</b> C - Gareth Irvine, Kate Pellereau, Becca Henney,	<b>6</b> St Laurence's CofE Primary School H - Michelle Cuskelly	<b>7</b> <b>Grants Committee</b>	<b>8</b> <b>St George, Coundon</b> C – Jennifer Wickham	<b>9</b> <b>Bablake School Chaplaincy</b> C – Sacha Slavic	<b>10</b> <b>Let Justice Roll</b> Amos 5.24	<b>11</b> <b>St Luke, Holbrooks</b> C – Fr Simon Oakes,
<b>17<sup>th</sup> AFTER TRINITY 12</b> <b>Allesley, All Saints –</b> C -Sarah Ashelby	<b>13</b> <b>St Thomas, Keresley with Coundon</b> C – Charlotte Jackson	<b>14</b> <b>St John the Baptist, city centre</b> C – Fr Dexter Bracey	<b>15</b> <b>St Nicholas. Radford</b> - IR	<b>16</b> <b>Bardsley Youth Project</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Blue Coat Black History Event 2025 today</b>	<b>18</b> <b>King Henry VIII School Chaplaincy</b> C – Sacha Slavic
<b>18<sup>th</sup> AFTER TRINITY 19</b> <b>St Paul, Foleshill</b> C – Abby Rhodes	<b>20</b> <b>Bishop's Council</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Diocesan Trustees</b>	<b>22</b> <b>DAC (Buildings)</b>	<b>23</b> <b>St Francis of Assisi, Radford</b> C – Aggy Palairat	<b>24</b> <b>Embrace our God-given identity</b> Psalm 139.14	<b>25</b> <b>St Thomas, Longford</b> - IR
<b>LAST AFTER TRINITY 26</b> <b>Holy Trinity Church, city centre</b> C- Richard Hibbert, Carolyne Powell	<b>27</b> <b>The Cathedral – worship &amp; music, art &amp; events, education, reconciliation</b>	<b>28</b> < C - John Witcombe (dean), Nitano Muller, Kate Massey, Sue McClellan, Sacha Slavic.	<b>29</b> <b>St Clare's @ Cathedral –</b> C - Charlotte Gale, Naomi Nixon	<b>30</b> <b>Blue Coat CofE Academy</b> H – Lisa Henden Chaplain: Luke Williams	<b>31</b> <b>Learn to do right</b> Isaiah 1.17	Thankful for the work of Neil Masih and the context in which he works

## PRAYER DIARY

We offer this prayer to turn our hearts toward God and one another:

### ENCOUNTER PRAYER (from 'Difference')

Loving God, fill us with your spirit now.  
 Help us to be curious about others' stories  
 —listening as often as we speak.  
 Give us the courage to be present  
 —engaging our whole and unique selves.  
 Inspire us to Reimagine what's possible  
 —finding hope by glimpsing you at work.  
 In Jesus' name. Amen.



Coming up – the **Theme** for November is **GROWING FAITH/YOUNG PEOPLE** then **Advent/ Christmas (December)**.  
 Planning is already underway for 2026, if you have suggestions or requests.

### BEING HEALTHY CHURCH

Is your church characterized by people who do the right thing and act justly in the sense that they do what conforms to Christlikeness?  
**Is the “right thing” seemingly assumed but never expressed?**  
 Is the wrong thing sometimes done but hidden so others think the right thing is being done?

**JUSTICE – PIVOT, McKight & Barringer (2023)**

## SPECIFIC DAYS IN OCTOBER 2025

**1 – Coventry North Deanery** thanks for Gareth Irvine's tenure as Area Dean and for Fr Simon Oakes acting up in this role since September. The appointment of a new Growing Faith Leader Dagmer Dias, who returns to the Diocese to work across the two parishes of St Laurence & St Paul's (see also requests for prayer on 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>)

**4 – Coffee Tots (family focused community café and parenting project):** Coffee Tots (family focused community café and parenting project): <https://www.coffeetots.co.uk/> We give thanks for the growing Coffee Tots Family: families, staff and volunteers. Thank you for continuing new families coming in and for the way in which friendships and support networks are growing. Please pray for strength, resilience and good health (physical and mental) for our families and the staff team as we seek to support vulnerable families from across the city in a wide variety of ways.

**5 – St Laurence's Foleshill** This autumn we have been encouraged to pray audacious prayers! We are thankful for answered prayers in the form of our new Growing Faith Worker, Dagmer, who will be working with children and youth across the church and local schools. We would so appreciate prayer for all aspects of our work with children, across church and schools. For all in our church family we are praying that we will grow in our love for one another and our hunger for God.

**9 – Bablake School chaplaincy (Coventry School Foundation - CSF)** - Thanks for a smooth start to the academic year. We pray for our links with ICONS in Germany, for Harvest Festivals in each CSF school and for preparations for Remembrance services. We pray for Community Cohesion in our wider Community and the wellbeing of our families, pupils and staff.

**11 – St Luke's, Holbrooks** - We give thanks for the continued growth in the family of faith in Holbrooks, especially among young adults. Prayers would be appreciated for Fr Simon as he leads the Deanery in the period of interregnum; for Deacon Charles Cowper in his continuing formation; and for Deacon Sarah Gillard-Faulkner (Associate Minister and Chaplain at HMP Onley) as next month's Prisons Week approaches.

**12 All Saints, Allesley** We are grateful for our new curate Ann joining us in July and for all she brings to us as clergy continue to work alongside a fantastic team of lay people. We are grateful for the ways God is developing connection with people through our churchyard, via Muddy Church trails, Outdoor Church in the summer and a Gospel Giveaway box. Please pray for Youth Alpha in the Autumn term; we are hosting and partnering with other nearby churches, and it will be led by young people themselves. Please pray for our missional opportunities with families generally and for the growing relationship with Allesley Primary School, through Harvest, Narnia weekend at the start of Advent, and Christmas.

**13 – St Thomas, Keresley with Coundon** We give thanks for another year of engagement with our local community, schools and seeing our congregation grow in number. It is a joy to minister alongside a great team of lay people as we worship and serve together. We've adjusted how we do our children's work over the summer and so are excited and would ask you to pray as we align our Sunday school and main service sermons to be following the same material which we hope will foster greater parent/child and congregation/children relationships. We also ask for prayer over our community space in Keresley Village where we continue to be a regular presence, offering a weekly coffee morning as well as a sewing group, messy breakfast and supporting wider community initiatives in conjunction with the resident's association and community library.

**14 – St John the Baptist (city centre)** We give thanks for the success of our 'Safe and Dry' fundraising campaign, and the work to the building that is now happening as a result of that. We pray for the development of a clearer sense of our mission to the city centre.

**15 – St Nicholas, Radford (vacancy)** – Thanks for the demolition of our old church building, which has released the congregation from a massive burden. We pray for wisdom as we look to the future and discern what our future might be.

**16 – Bardsley Youth Project** - We give thanks for our growing impact as we walk with homeless and vulnerably housed young people in the city. We pray for our staff. We also pray for the young people we serve as we enter the winter months.

**18 – King Henry VIII School chaplaincy (CSF)** - see 9<sup>th</sup> details from chaplain Sacha Slavic

**19 – St Paul's, Foleshill** - We give thanks for all God is doing in Foleshill, including our new Stay and Play group, a planned discipleship course, exciting mission activities, and opportunities to share the Gospel. Please also pray for the work of the new Growing Faith Leader in Foleshill, Dagmer.

**23 – St Francis of Assisi, Radford** - We give thanks for the blessing of our growing church family. As October unfolds, we look forward to a joyful season of worship and celebration, with special services marking Harvest, Black History Month, and our cherished St Francis Pet Service. Please keep in your prayers the young people preparing for baptism and confirmation this November. May their journey, and ours, draw us ever nearer to God so that we would follow God more closely and love God more dearly.

**25 – St Thomas's, Longford (vacancy)** - Pray for the churchwardens, PCC and Bishop as they navigate the vacancy and discern next steps.

**26 – Holy Trinity Church, Coventry City Centre** We give thanks for: Continued growth in congregational life and faith, the growing number of visitors and seekers, the positive results from the summer stewardship programme, the successful conclusion of the Aural Histories research project. We pray for: Confirmation candidates, Advent and Christmas planning, New students arriving in Coventry to find a church home and family, especially those coming to HTC to find belonging, encounter Jesus as Lord and become his apprentices, The new prayer room on the ruins of the ancient place of prayer (St Mary's Priory), establishing and Holy Spirit led, and birthing of new patterns of praise and prayer

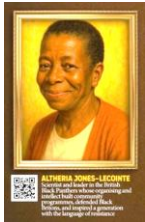
**27, 28 – Coventry Cathedral** - We give thanks to Almighty God for the success of our recent Heritage Open Days at the Cathedral; we are grateful for the exhibition that uncovered the untold stories of the Cathedral's construction in the 1950s. We celebrate the skilled artisans and dedicated workers, many who came from across the Commonwealth, whose hands shaped the building that has become a symbol of hope; we remember their legacy with gratitude during Black History Month, honouring their vital role in our shared story. We pray for strength and wisdom as we seek to embody our priorities of hospitality, learning to live with difference, and celebrating diversity. We ask God's blessing on the Phoenix Club, which provides a home of fellowship for newcomers and international students in our community. May it continue to foster deep friendships, mutual understanding, and joy across cultures. We pray that all who gather there may experience Christ's reconciling love and the richness of shared life together. May the Cathedral always reflect God's kingdom, where every person and every story is valued and treasured.

**30 – Blue Coat CofE Academy (although it is in Coventry East Deanery, it is linked with Holy Trinity Church in Coventry City Centre, in Coventry North Deanery)** We thank God for a wonderful start to the term, especially as we've welcomed hundreds of new pupils into Year 7. Luke Williams says, "I also begun my journey as the new School Chaplain, and I'd be so grateful for your prayers-that I would carry the light, love, and truth of Jesus into every corner of our school. In our Collective Worship, we're exploring the powerful 'I AM' statements of Jesus. Please pray that both staff and pupils would be amazed by who Jesus is and how He reveals Himself to us."

## PRAYER JOTTINGS – OCTOBER 2025

### PRAYER FOCUS FOR SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

Neil Masih writes, I have included the following scripture readings for each Sunday during October to reflect on diversity and how God welcomes all to his Kingdom.



#### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October

Scripture: Genesis 1:27

Focus: **Celebrating the image of God in all people**

So, God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them

Prayer: **For us to be led by the Holy Spirit to respect and celebrate each other as we are made in the image of God.**



#### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October

Scripture: Amos 5:24

Focus: **Let justice roll**

Prayer: **Pray for God's justice to be done in the world, especially in education, policing, and employment.**

#### SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

Scripture: Psalm 139:14

Focus: **Embracing our God-given identity**

Prayer: **Ask God to help all people know their value and worth in Him, especially those who have felt devalued**



#### SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER

Scripture: Isaiah 1:17

Focus: **Learning to do right**

Prayer: **Ask God to help churches and communities stand up for racial justice and reconciliation.**

### • Slow Down, Refocus, Notice God's Presence

from *'What if Jesus was Serious About Prayer'* Skye Jethani (Moddy, 2021)

"Prayer trains us to see God where we might otherwise miss Him. Without it, in our busy, information-overloaded culture, it is very easy to focus on everything *other than God*. We can be so focused on the news, our work, or the 10,000 things vying for our attention that we may go days and even weeks without seeing God in our lives. Of course, that doesn't mean He isn't there .... Prayer is a time to slow down, refocus, and notice God's presence." He says "There are certain forms of prayer that can train us to recognize God in the ordinary routines of our day." For example ... reflect on the events, encounters, and feelings that filled your day. You can replay the previous hours and ask yourself questions to uncover the hidden movements of God that might otherwise have gone unnoticed. This practice can often be done at the end of the day, although it could be done at the start of the day, "in anticipation of the events ahead."

### Read Genesis 28.10-16

**Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.**

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it."

### Blue Coat School & Black History Month (see 17<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, Diary)



During Black History Month 2025, the school host various events and activities that celebrate the rich history and culture of black individuals and communities. These events will include performances, exhibitions, and discussions that highlight the contributions and achievements of black people in Coventry and beyond. The school's commitment to education and community engagement makes it a significant venue for such celebrations.

Prayer: *In October as we celebrate 'Black History Month' and as a school we give thanks for the rich diversity within our school community. Our commitment to racial justice continues throughout the year, and we'll be praying into this more deeply in November. May our celebration of difference reflect the love of Christ and God's heart for all nations and people. Blue Coat Showcase 2025, 17 October 2025:*

<https://allevents.in/coventry/black-history-month-showcase-2025/200028854901840>

- *This month we are praying for **Coventry North Deanery**. In November we pray for **Kenilworth Deanery**, and the **Nuneaton Deanery** in December, planning begins very soon for the **DPD** in 2026. I look forward to receiving updates from area deans and clergy, and anyone else with specific prayer requests and suggestions for the Prayer Diary.*
- **DPD Contact:** [Clive.Hicks@Coventry.Anglican.org](mailto:Clive.Hicks@Coventry.Anglican.org)