

Loving One Another (including Ethnic Diversity, Race Equality, *Difference*, Living in Love & Faith, 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. Our Race Equality Steering Group has developed a strategy to improve race equality within the diocese. This is done through consultation with the Race Equality Advisory Group (REAG) and churches. The Living in Love and Faith (LLF) project has produced resources to help the whole Church to learn how relationships, marriage and sexuality fit within the bigger picture of a humanity created in the image of God, and to understand each other better. At an international level, our cathedral continues to promote reconciliation through the Community of the Cross of Nails. *(paragraph from Strategic Vision Framework 'Our Shared Future')*

This month it will have been a year since the events in Palestine and Israel. How can we pray with love and dignity?

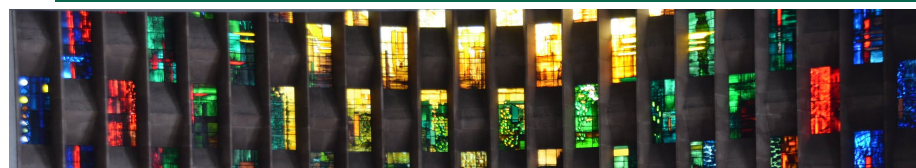
Archbishop Hosam Naoum of Jerusalem has offered the following prayer,

O God of all justice and peace, we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land. Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths - Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land. While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call to you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children - for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

If you'd like explore the role Christian have as agents of reconciliation, consider this [learning event](#) hosted by Embrace the Middle East.

Reconciliation is at the very heart of our calling as a diocese. We are to share the story of Coventry Cathedral's response to the bombing in 1940 afresh for every generation. Canon Mary Gregory asks, "please would you pray with us for:

- the launch, in January, of the Reconciliation Pathway; for those with an interest or calling in reconciliation to come and explore more of what this might mean for them;
- the encouragement of diocesan partners in the Community of the Cross of Nails (the Cathedral's international reconciliation network), that they might rediscover their calling as a CCN partner;
- the Cathedral's focus on new strands of reconciliation: what reconciliation to the earth might look like, and what a reconciler's response to the rise of the far right might be."



THE WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL RACIAL JUSTICE

Commissioning Service

Location
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL
PRIORY STREET COVENTRY
CV1 5AB

SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER
4PM - 5.30PM

The service will be followed with light refreshments. All welcome


West Midlands Racial Justice Initiative

From Neil Masih, the Diocesan Intercultural Mission Enabler

We pray for all those who are working to bring about loving relationships. Help us to find time for forgiveness, healing and reconciliation. Pray for those harmed by racial injustice and help us to remember that we must "welcome one another" (Rom. 15.7) Help and guide those who lead work to bring change from the harm of prejudice and injustice; through advice, training, counselling and prayer. We pray for those who are leading on this within our Diocese, for the work they are doing now, and in our collaborations with other dioceses: **give them wisdom and courage as they lead and participate in this work.**

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

AD = Area Dean; C = Clergy; IR = Interregnum; H = Headteacher; EH = Executive Head

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pray for St Alban, Stoke Health, and St John the Divine, Willenhall, as they advertise and interview for their new vicars.		1 COVENTRY EAST DEANERY AD Claire McArthur	2 Coventry All Saints C – Pam Howell	3 Diocesan Mission Fund	4 all involved in the special service on 6 th October	5 All Saints Primary School H – Cara Page
19 th AFTER TRINITY 6 Celebrate Ethnic Diversity Service at the Cathedral	7 St Mary, Walsgrave-on-Sowe C – Tom Cook	8 Walsgrave Primary School H – Damien Sowerby	9 <u>Net Zero Steering Grp</u>	10 <u>Bishop’s Core Staff</u>	11 those involved in reconciliation ministry	12 Stoke, St Michael C – Claire McArthur
20 th AFTER TRINITY 13 St John the Divine Willenhall C – Vacancy; advertising	14 <u>Bishop’s Council</u>	15 <u>Diocesan Trustees</u>	16 Stretton CofE Academy EH – Leah Baddeley; AHT – Roberta Odell Mainwaring	17 St Bartholomew, Binley C – Jon Taylor; Binley Woods LEP	18 for the conflict involving Israel and Palestine	19 St Bartholomew’s CofE Academy H – Mina Sharma
21 st AFTER TRINITY 20 St Catherine, Stoke Aldermoor / New Century Park C – Linda Fletcher	21 St Chad, Wood End C – Brian Nash; vacancy from 1/11/24	22 <u>Cathedral Chapter</u>	23 <u>DAC</u>	24 St James, Whitley C – Anne Richards, vacancy from 1/11/24	25 Neil Masih, in his role with the Diocese	26 St Phillip’s, Potter’s Green C - Vacancy
LAST AFTER TRINITY 27 St Alban, Stoke Heath C – Vacancy; advertising	28 Holy Cross, St Mary Magdalene & Church of the Risen Christ, Wyken C – Paul Pavlou	29 St Mark – Conventional District C – Phil Atkinson	30 The Chaplaincy Team, UHCW NHS Trust	31 St Peter, Hillfields C – Matt Spina (<i>curate</i>)		
		COVENTRY EAST DEANERY <u>Clergy with PTO</u> – Lesley Johnson, Paul Lowe,	Laurence Wickens			Schools included are all Church of England schools. Other schools may be mentioned.

PRAYER DIARY



Coming up – the Themes for the final two months of 2024 are Generous Giving (November) and then an understandable focus on Advent/Christmas (December). Do consider sending me your prayer suggestions, and any other jottings.

BEING HEALTHY CHURCH
In “The 3 Colours of Love” (2004) Christian Schwarz speaks to the art of giving and receiving justice (green), truth (red) and grace (blue). ‘God reveals his love to people in diverse ways.’ For some this is a hug, for others prayer ministrys and others being confronted, as with a mirror, with who they really are.

SPECIFIC DAYS IN OCTOBER 2024

1 – Coventry East Deanery Area Dean, Claire McArthur; Lay Chair, vacancy; pray for St Alban's, Stoke Heath, and St John the Divine, Willenhall, as they advertise and interview for their new vicars.

2 – Coventry All Saints – C Beks Rothnie, R(PTO) Mick Harling new curate Rev Beks, new Growing Faith Families Worker Rachel Johnston, links with All Saints, Gosford park, Bluecoat Schools, families who came to Summer Brunch Club, and who attend Messy Church and Stay & Play. growth for both churches including Sunday School at St Margaret's. Funding and Faculties for major repairs for building and roof (St Margaret's) and (refurbishment for Lady Chapel for Sunday School and lower hall for All Saints nursery (St Anne's)

5 – All Saints Church of England Primary School

7 – St Mary, Walsgrave-on-Sowe – R Lorraine Baker, Ste Baker, R(PTO) Anthony Thistlewood We are thankful for the way Lego Church has been going and for the relationships with our local CoE School; We value your prayers as we pursue our priorities: Young People, Small Groups, Irresistible Environments

8 – Walsgrave Church of England Primary School

12 - Stoke St Michael Church – R(PTO) Ann Brown, Janet Pocklington, R – Chris Dronfield, Sue Morris, Suzanne Sapiano Pray for our new services: *A place to worship and A place to breathe*. Give thanks for our community garden and all that come on site to tend to it. Please pray for Pattisons School as they recover from the death of their Headteacher and one of their pupils in the summer. Pray, too, for Ravensdale and Stoke Primary schools.

13 – St John the Divine, Willenhall C – Andy Clasper Interregnum. At *St John the Divine* we are thankful for the revived sense of purpose that's resulted from the vision work we've done together this summer. We are praying that this autumn we may find the right next vicar to lead us into the future.

16 – Stretton Church of England Academy

17 - St Bartholomew, Binley/Binley Woods LEP – C James Bremner, C (Assoc) Richard Bromley PTF Lynn Moakes, R(PTO) Greg Sampson We would like to thank God for the summer lunch clubs, all our Connect groups including the Bereavement Friendship Group, and for our Youth Group. We would like prayer for our Alpha course which is starting on 1st October.

19 – St Bartholomew's Church of England Academy

20 – St Catherine, Stoke Aldermoor & New Century Park C (Assoc) Julie Watkins-Wollner

21 – St Chad, Wood End Interregnum from 1 November 2024

24 - St James, Whitley We have four schools in the parish with greater links with the Primary School and Meadow Park School. The other two schools are special schools with some links with Tiverton. We run a Youth Cafe alongside CYFC on Fridays so prayer for that to continue, especially as Anne Richards will retire from Whitley on 1st November.

26 - St Phillip's, Potter's Green We are still in interregnum and so we as a church have been praying for a new minister.

27 - St Alban, Stoke Heath Interregnum – C **Jacque Ayton**

28 – Holy Cross - Caludon, St Mary Magdalene & Church of the Risen Christ, Wyken – C (Associate) Liz Harris, C Sam Millward, R(PTO) Margaret Robinson Please pray for us at Risen Christ as we launch further into our missional activity this term and that we would be making Jesus known as we step out in faith to serve in this way. Prayers in particular for our Messy Church Service which we have now upped to once a month.

29 – St Mark, Conventional District – C – Nathan Leigh, Rachel King; St Mark's Academy - Jonny Davies; Lou Peet (Youth)

30 – University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust chaplaincy team at Walsgrave Hospital, incl Liz Jones [Spiritual Care - University Hospitals Coventry & Warwickshire \(uhcw.nhs.uk\)](https://www.uhcw.nhs.uk/spiritual-care)

31 - St Peter, Hillfields – R John McCoach

C = Clergy R = Reader PTF Permission to take funerals H = Headteacher

PRAYING WITH OTHERS

We are, by our very nature, relational creatures, who have evolved to connect with each other, with the world ... and with God.

So sometimes we may wish to pray together, perhaps in a small group of two or three, perhaps in a larger group of people with a common basis of faith.

Together we share our needs and concerns, not forgetting to notice the practical ways we can help and support each other.

Together we reflect on what is wrong in our hearts, in the way we function as a group, or in society, the way we cherish, or fail to cherish, our planet home and all the life upon it.

Together we allow the feelings inside us to overflow in joyful response to all that lies around and beyond us, sometimes quietly, sometimes exuberantly.

Together we share the depth of silence, perhaps in circles of contemplative prayer.

Together we re-enact the defining moments of our shared and sacred story.

And together we can turn our prayer into action.

Alone I can do very little,

Together there is very little that we cannot do.

Margaret Silf 'On Prayer' (Lion, 2004, p 89))

PRAYER JOTTINGS – OCTOBER 2024

- **Resources that support relationship building that engage with difference**

Navigating differences, disagreements and conflict constructively are a continuing significant need in our communities and ministries. Two resources offered this Autumn, for local groups, Churches, lay, community members with influence in the Church & clergy leaders. These resources are there to support you and those in your communities and networks.

- ❖ **October 24th** - Day workshop with Place for Hope 'Practical Skills for difficult conversations'

This workshop is for lay, Church community members with influence and clergy leaders

For basic info and registration: <https://www.equiphub.org.uk/courses-events-and-resources/practical-skills-for-difficult-conversations-2024/>

- ❖ **Starts November 5th – ends December 10th** *Difference Online*

This course is open to anyone interested

For basic info and registration: [The Difference course - Equip Hub](#)

For the eagle-eyed this will be a core learning course part of a new '[Reconciliation Pathway](#)' which will be launched this November 2024.

- **Having respectful & authentic conversations - Living in Love & Faith (LLF)**

Emma de Crick Boom, *Reconciliation Enabler*, writes, *"It is possible that you may engage with people who feel differently to you or others who have a very different life experience to you. As you acquaint yourself with the prayers of love and faith which are intended for members of the LGBTQI community, think and pray for the same sex couples who may enquire after them and consider how vulnerable this may feel as they make that step.*

Whatever relationships you are engaging with, I'd like to offer you a question that I both ask myself, and others with pastoral responsibility and therefore would like to ask you.

What is your intent? Or What is your posture?

How do you hold yourself in those pastoral spaces? What is the internal processing going on that checks in on how your feeling and how you may respond to another. It is about how you prepare yourself, spiritually, physically and emotionally.

There are aspects of relational dynamics that you can plan for in an encounter, by anticipating temperaments and familiar reactions. Other people's responses are not usually, if ever, within our control. It can often be the case that our own responses may catch us unawares, even feel a bit out of our control. - Can you imagine a situation like that?

So, the aim is not to change feelings or convictions, but pro-actively raise our own level of intent as we enter different relational spheres.

Jesus said, blessed are the peace makers for they will be called children of God, (Matthew 5:9). As we acknowledge the capacity for great love within ourselves and those around us, so we might also be able to acknowledge the capacity for hostility within ourselves and those around us. It makes this call to lean into our identity in Christ as peace makers only more poignant.

*If we want to have healthy conversations with PCCs and different Church members having conversations about PLF; then it is **key to examine ourselves, noticing how positions and sentiments in these encounters can have an effect. Recognizing how it may impact and influence on how we relate to one another. Let us pray for God's great love to be increased within us, to show itself through us in authentic and practical ways.***

Black History Month (BHM) 2024 <https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/>

- Neil Masih writes, "The theme of **Reclaiming Narratives** for BHM is focusing on changing previous established stories and adding a different perspective on them historically. This may feel uncomfortable, but God always knows the truth and that is something we can hold onto when facing uncertainty or injustice. To celebrate BHM West Midlands Regional Racial Justice Initiative (WMRRJI) Commissioning Service will be held at Coventry Cathedral on Sunday 6th October at 4pm. The service will bring together a collaboration of six dioceses - Birmingham, Coventry, Gloucester, Hereford, Lichfield and Worcester. **Please pray for the important work that the WMRRJI will be overseeing across the several dioceses in bringing unity through Gods love and ensuring that those harmed by racial injustice can be comforted and healed.**"
- Each month we focus on a different Deanery; this month it is **Coventry East Deanery**. In November it will be Coventry North Deanery and Kenilworth Deanery for December. In 2025 we continue to pray for all the churches and deaneries across the Diocese in a fresh cycle. I look forward to receiving updates from area deans and clergy, and anyone else with specific prayer requests.



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