



Prayer Diary

March 2022

“All that is mine is yours” (Luke 15.31)

The world feels chaotic, disorganised and unruly. For all the turmoil and hardship of the pandemic, it's possible that we may look back on it as an unusual, perhaps a remarkable, period of order and obedience. Now, as if the process of reopening our society is not fraught enough, Europe looks set to lurch into a state of war, the rules of the game no longer seem to matter, societies are bitterly polarised. It's as though we've forgotten how to be human, how to be together. Being less isolated from each other, we find ourselves confronting or neglecting each other.

Lent is sometimes seen as an intensive opportunity to focus on our own spiritual lives, isolated from others. But the principal disciplines of Lent – prayer, fasting and almsgiving – all point us towards our responsibilities for others and to the kingdom of God's goodness for all. Lent makes us dissatisfied with the world as it is with its culture of greed and debris of neglect of those in need that leaves billions of people with so little that they simply have nothing left to give up for Lent. This is a world of stark inequalities, imbalances and injustices.

An essential part of our Lenten journey is reconciliation – with God and with each other. On the fourth Sunday of Lent we sometimes hear the parable of the prodigal son – itself an act of reconciliation – in anticipation of God's ultimate act of reconciliation through his death and resurrection of Christ. This Lent, let us heal wounds, mend broken relationships, explore the possibility that our individual actions – however big or small – might play fruitfully into the lives of others and into the kingdom of God, and say with confidence, 'all that is mine is yours' (Luke 15.31).



Bishop Christopher

WaterAid Jars of Change



WaterAid is inviting churches to join its annual Jars of Change Lent Appeal.

By giving something up for Lent and donating the money saved to WaterAid, congregations will help bring clean water to other communities around the world, and with it, the power to keep families safe and healthy.

WaterAid is an international development charity working in partnership with local organisations in over 30 countries worldwide, to provide clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene to everyone.

WaterAid has created a free resource pack that is available to order by post or to download, including Sunday School activities, an all age talk, a poster, fundraising ideas and jar sleeves that can be used as Gift Aid declarations too.

Clean water is our first line of defence against illness and disease, but globally millions of people are still living without this essential resource. One in three healthcare facilities around the world have no clean water and good hygiene, putting patients and staff at risk.

With the support of congregations across the UK, clean water has already transformed health centres for families like Alineta's (pictured), in Malawi. By joining Jars of Change with your congregation, you will help reach more communities around the world with life-changing clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene. For more information about the appeal and to order or download a free resource pack, please visit wateraid.org/uk/lent

Cycle of Prayer - March 2022

With a focus on parishes and schools in Fosse Deanery

Tue 1 Today is Self-Injury Awareness Day. Awareness of self-injury leads to understanding, banishing judgement and fear, and reducing the number of people who suffer in silence. We pray that today raises awareness. We pray for the Bishop's Core Staff Team who start their residential meeting today.

Wed 2 The Dasset Magna Group of Churches. Clergy: Nicki Chatterton. Reader: John Davies. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
Ash
Wednesday
*Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary, 672

Thu 3 This week is Eating Disorders Awareness Week. This is an international awareness event, fighting the myths that surround anorexia, bulimia, binge eating disorder and EDNOS. 1.25 million people in the UK live with an eating disorder and this number is rising. We pray for people living with eating disorders that they receive the help and support they need.

Fri 4 Wellesbourne. Clergy: Greg Bartlem, Steve Hood, Barry Coleman, Norman Howes, Christopher Lamb, Heather Turner, William Howard, John Horton, Charmaine Host and Wendy Biddington. Readers: Richard Bacon, Ian Host. We have begun to grow again after the pandemic, with new relationships with the local school forming. Please pray for a positive and hope filled 2022.

Sat 5 Alveston CofE Primary School, Tiddington. Headteacher: Anne Clewley. We pray for God's blessing upon the pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community.

Sun 6 Hampton Lucy CofE Primary School & Nursery, Hampton Lucy, Warwick. Headteacher: Margaret Lunnon. We pray for God's blessing upon the pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community.
First Sunday of
Lent

Mon 7 The Edgehill Churches. Clergy: Barry Jackson. Reader: Alan Hill. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community. We pray for the Diocesan Business Committee which meets this morning.
*Perpetua, Felicity and their Companions, Martyrs at Carthage, 203

Tue 8 We pray for International Women's Day. #BreakTheBias
*Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln, 1910
*Felix, Bishop, Apostle to the East Angles, 647
*Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, Priest, Poet, 1929

Wed 9 Yesterday was International Women's Day. More than a century after the day was first launched, much more needs to be done to protect and free millions of women from the inequality they face every day. Many women across the world face pay discrimination, sexual harassment, denial of the right to education, and violence. We pray for equality among all people.

Thu 10 St Andrew, Shotton. Clergy: Craig Grocock, Mike Stewart, Paul Edmondson, Nikki Moon, Mary Crameri, David Capron, Joy Hance, Joan Whyman. Reader: Jan Walker. We thank God for our retired clergy and for Jan, our Reader. We pray for the rebuilding of our children and family ministry that has been deeply affected by the recent Covid pandemic.

Fri 11 This month we are invited to remember women affected by Ovarian Cancer, those who care for them, and those seeking to treat the disease. We pray for greater awareness of the disease and the often 'silent' symptoms so that many more women can be treated early and successfully.

Sat 12 Shotton St Andrew's CofE Primary School, Stratford upon Avon. Headteacher: Sarah Marshall. We pray for God's blessing upon the pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community.

Sun 13 Stratford upon Avon, Luddington and Clifford Chambers. Clergy: Patrick Taylor, Steve Jarvis, John Hall-Matthews. Reader: Phil Harper. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community.
Second Sunday
of Lent

Mon 14 Walton d'Eivile. Clergy: Greg Bartlem, Steve Hood, Barry Coleman, Norman Howes, Christopher Lamb, Heather Turner, William Howard, John Horton, Charmaine Host and Wendy Biddington. Readers: Richard Bacon, Ian Host. Despite an older congregation, we were open through most of the pandemic and numbers are healthy. Please pray for a new generation to connect with.

Tue 15 St. Peter's CofE Primary School, Barford, Warwick. Headteacher: Mary Baker. We pray for God's blessing upon the pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community.

Wed 16 Wellesbourne CofE Primary and Nursery School, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire. Headteacher: Lindsey Oscroft. We pray for God's blessing upon the pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community.

Thu 17 We thank God for the provision of the Mission Fund and for the support it has offered to many churches and deaneries in their projects and efforts in mission. We pray for continued access to support, and enthusiasm for making new disciples in all areas of this diocese.
*Patrick, Bishop, Missionary, Patron of Ireland, c.460

Fri 18 Kineton CofE Primary School, Kineton, Warwickshire. Headteacher: Margaret Pollard. We pray for God's blessing upon the pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community.
*Cyril, Bishop of Jerusalem, Teacher of the Faith, 386

Sat 19 We thank God for the buildings and spaces he has entrusted to as places of worship. We ask God to help us steward these spaces well. We pray for those who serve in local and national government. We thank God for their commitment and drive for a better society. We pray for Diocesan Synod which meets today.
Joseph of Nazareth

Sun 20 Loxley CofE Primary School, Loxley, Warwickshire. Headteacher: Emma Barrick. We pray for God's blessing upon the pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community.
*Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 687
Third Sunday of Lent

Mon 21 We pray for all the schools in the diocese as they journey through Lent and prepare to celebrate Easter.
*Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, Reformation Martyr, 1556

Tue 22 Today is World Water Day. Billions of people across the world are living without safe water. Marginalized groups including women, children, refugees, disabled people and many others often face discrimination as they try to access safe water. We thank you God for the gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life and pray that safe water would be available for all.

Wed 23 Mid-Fosse Parishes. Clergy: Lynda Lilley. Readers: Richard Woodfin, Gillian Jones. We thank God for relationship being built and renewed. We pray for time and space for us to listen to where and to what God is calling us.

Thu 24 We thank God for all the clergy in our diocese who serve in rural parishes. We pray for the Bishop's Core Staff Team which meets today.
*Walter Hilton of Thurgarton, Augustinian Canon, Mystic, 1396
*Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, Martyr, 1980

Fri 25 Moreton Morrell CofE Primary School, Moreton Morrell, Warwick. Headteacher: Sarah Eadon. We pray for God's blessing upon the pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community.

Sat 26 Holy Trinity CofE Primary School, Stratford upon Avon. Headteacher: Jo Herero. We pray for God's blessing upon the pupils, teachers, staff and governors in this school community.
*Harriet Monsell, Founder of the Community of St John the Baptist, 1883

Sun 27 Alveston. Clergy: Interregnum. We pray for God's blessing upon the church members and the local community. On this Mothering Sunday, we pray particularly for those who have lost their mothers, those who never knew their mothers and those who have had difficult relationships with their mothers.
Mothering Sunday

Mon 28 This week is Debt Awareness Week. This week is all about encouraging people to act early on the problem of debt. We give thanks for charities like Christians Against Poverty (CAP) who work to release people from debt. We pray for CAP's debt counselling, community groups and work with churches.

Tue 29 We pray for all who care for and steward God's wonderful creation. At this time of spring renewal, we pray for all farmers and shepherds who are spending long hours watching over and caring for their animals as they bring forth new life. We give thanks for their skill, dedication and patience.

Wed 30 Barford, Sherbourne, Wasperton, Charlecote, Hampton Lucy and Loxley. Clergy: Andy Larkin, John Horton. Readers: Ann Fawcett, Chris Farr, Malcolm Dawson. We thank God for forthcoming opportunities to bring our communities together. We ask for prayer that Christ may build His church across our villages.

Thu 31 The Dassett CofE School, Fenny Compton. Headteacher: Suzanne Corry. We pray for God's blessing upon the pupils, teachers, staff and governors.
*John Donne, Priest, Poet, 1631

Living Generously

Living Generously is our theme for Lent this year. We are exploring how we can respond to Christ's generous act of love on the cross by living generous lives ourselves.

Bishop Christopher writes -

'Christian Generosity is rooted in the generosity of God made abundantly available to us in Jesus Christ, whose way is the truth that leads to fullness of life. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8.9).'

This is part of Bishop Christopher's foreword to the booklet *Living Generously: Seven reflections on Mary anointing Jesus' feet* by Jonathan Farnhill which forms the basis of our Lent reflections and resources.

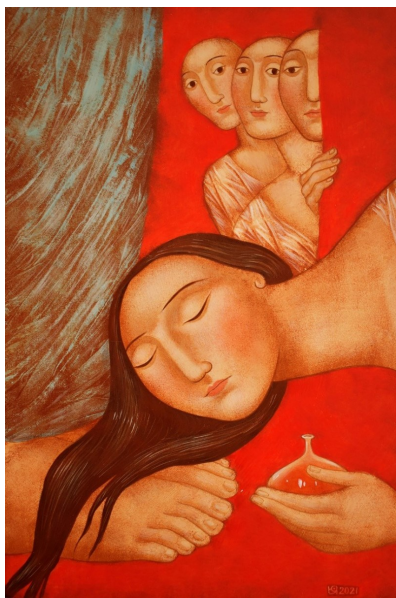
The entire resource centres around John 12:3

'Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair' (NRSV)

It views this moment as a moment of generosity and leads us into seeing seven different types of generosity displayed in this one act. And from that, it helps us to see ourselves today and the generosity we give and receive in a new way.

The resources include a booklet, a five week study week guide, prayers and liturgy. The resources can be adapted for use at home, with a small group, as a prayer day etc. It has been written so that it is accessible for children and young people so could be used as an intergenerational form of worship or specifically in schools or children's church.

Find the resources on the Equip Hub.



Take part in the Living in Love and Faith course

Living in Love and Faith is a five-part course designed to help people learn and reflect together about questions of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.



The *Living in Love and Faith* project is propelled by the Church's desire to learn how relationships, marriage and sexuality fit within the bigger picture of a humanity that is liberated by Jesus Christ and infused by the Spirit to reflect the image of God in which we are created.

Perspectives on gender, identity and sexuality are evolving and the Church wants to explore these matters by studying what the Bible, theology, history and the social and biological sciences have to say.

The project team, led by Bishop Christopher, produced resources in a variety of formats that they hope will be accessible, helpful and attractive to a wide range of people.

The resources can be downloaded from the Living in Love and Faith Learning Hub. These resources help people to think more deeply both about what it means to be human, and to live in love and faith with one another. They tackle the tough questions and the divisions among Christians about what it means to be holy in a society in which understandings and practices of gender, sexuality and marriage continue to change.

A number of *Living in Love and Faith* courses have taken place over the last year across the diocese. The next course will take place on Wednesday evenings in Lent. It will take place over Zoom with a taster session on Wednesday 23rd Feb, 7.30pm and then from the 9th March to the 6th April. The course will be run by the Revd Gail Philip, the LLF Advocate for the diocese. To register for this course, or if you have any questions before registering, please email revgailvicar.stgiles@gmail.com.