

MAP for Derby Dioceseprayer and worship resources

# introduction

MAP is concerned with God’s Church and His call to it. We recognise that, without God’s wisdom and resources, our response to that call will always fail.

As Mary responded to God’s call, she acknowledged the power of God to complete His work in her (Lk 1:35-38). Paul is confident that it was God who would complete His own work in His Church (Phil 1:3-6) and recognised his own need for God’s resources for his own ministry (Col 1:28-29).

For MAP to bear fruit in any context, it must always be surrounded by prayer. The church must constantly seek the resources of God, recognise their need of His power in completing the work He has called them to and give thanks to God for all He does in and through them

# when to use this resource

This resource is most appropriate for use during all stages of MAP for Derby Diocese, to maintain the core principle of prayerfulness throughout.

# resources

## Derby Diocese MAP prayer

Eternal God of the moment:

You sent your Son, Jesus Christ,

to offer his body as a single, perfect sacrifice

that the world might be reconciled to you.

We thank you that, by your Holy Spirit,

we grow in experience of your love

and confidence in you.

We pray that, as we engage with you

and develop Mission Action Plans,

we would offer ourselves to you in worship

and you would transform us by the renewing of our minds,

that discerning your will and working with you, we may

 serve our local communities,

 grow in discipleship of Jesus,

 draw others to saving faith

 and transform your world;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## prayers from other dioceses

### Blackburn MAP prayer

God of new beginnings

we pray that you will transform your church

and renew us by your love.

Give us vision for the journey

that we may travel light and live increasingly by faith.

Inspire, enliven and empower us,

so that along the way

we may be sustained by the life of Christ

 in ourselves

 in one another

 and in the world.

### York MAP prayers

Eternal God, through the power of your Holy Spirit

renew the members of your Church in this Diocese, and our partners in mission,

that we may be agents for transforming the world.

Bless our actions and plans so that your kingdom of healing, justice, and peace comes near.

Let all creation look forward to reflecting the glory of your gift of Life, in all its fullness.

This we pray in the name of your Son Jesus Christ,

who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

### Wakefield\* Our Mission Our Transformation prayers

*\*now a part of West Yorkshire and the Dales Diocese*

**vision**

Father of all, you loved the world so much

that you gave your only Son,

so that all who believe in him should

have eternal and abundant life.

Grant us grace to accept all your gifts

and guide us to use them

for the good of others.

Give us vision also to proclaim the values of your Kingdom

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**community**

Loving Father, you have called us to be your people,

poured out your goodness on us,

and called us to be stewards of

all that you have entrusted to us.

Give us grace to enjoy

all your gifts to us,

to handle them with integrity

and to be careful to

meet the needs of others.

**service**

Lord Jesus Christ,

you have taught us that what we do

for the least of our brothers and sisters

we do also for you:

give us the will to be

the servant of others

as you were the servant of all

who gave up your life and died for us

but who now lives and reigns

for ever and ever.

**‘transforming lives’ prayer**

God of every time and place,

you hold each moment and shape each day;

by the gentleness of your Spirit transform us,

with the gifts of your Spirit equip us,

in the boldness of your Spirit send us out,

to serve you and transform the world,

in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

## resources for Biblical reflection

### a reflection on the transfiguration

This reflection, based on Matthew 17:1-23, might be used individually or with groups within the church, as a reminder of what travelling with Jesus entailed for his closest disciples. This reflection was originally produced for the first edition of MAP in Derby Diocese.

**1. spirituality (seeing)**

*1Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. 2And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.*

At the heart of spirituality is a decision to see a world that is not immediately obvious to the human eye. It is the world that Jesus called ‘The Kingdom of God’.

In their ‘normal lives’ the disciples saw a 30 year old Galilean Rabbi who toured the area giving inspired talks and working miracles. But on this mountain top, they saw him literally in a new light. They caught a glimpse of who he really was, the dazzling Son of Man. Once they had sight of this, they were taken into the culture of the Kingdom of God and could see the signs of the Kingdom everywhere. They learned to see with the eyes of faith.

Prayer, Bible study, contemplation, worship, Eucharist etc. give us the eyes to see. Growing in spirituality is growing to see Jesus for who he really is, to travel with him and to worship him.

**2. discipleship (listening)**

*3Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 4Then Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ 5While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!’*

The disciples became aware of Moses and Elijah, representatives of the law and the prophets. The writings of the Old Testament were the fundamental books of learning. Peter, James and John had been brought up to learn from the written word of God. But they also were instructed in this moment to listen to Jesus. Their growth as disciples came from close companionship with Jesus and listening to his living word alongside each other. They were encouraged to learn in community.

Sermons, Bible study and membership of small groups allow us to hear God’s living word and walk with Jesus together.

**3. evangelism (speaking)**

*9As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, ‘Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.’ 10And the disciples asked him, ‘Why, then, do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?’ 11He replied, ‘Elijah is indeed coming and will restore all things; 12but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but they did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man is about to suffer at their hands.’ 13Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them about John the Baptist.*

The disciples were commanded not to speak until Jesus had been raised from the dead. The assumption was that after the resurrection they would have much to speak about! There is a reference here also to the ministry of Elijah and John the Baptist, two great proclaimers of the word beyond the religious community who suffered for their faith in God.

Speaking and other forms of evangelism are both costly and infinitely rewarding.

**4. engagement (serving)**

*14When they came to the crowd, a man came to him, knelt before him, 15and said, ‘Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; he often falls into the fire and often into the water. 16And I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him.’ 17Jesus answered, ‘You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him here to me.’ 18And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. 19Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, ‘Why could we not cast it out?’ 20He said to them, ‘Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, “Move from here to there”, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.’*

After the experience of the transfiguration came the practical application - a valley filled with hurting people whose lives were in danger from “fire and water”. The disciples in the valley were trying to engage with this hurting and unjust world. But without faith, their attempts were less than effective.

Faith comes about by seeing and listening. The New Testament reveals a world in which the disciple community, reflecting the glory of the Son of Man, engages effectively with many different communities around them, bringing the healing of the suffering and risen Christ and justice demonstrating the Kingdom of God. Christians are called to engage in their communities, convinced that ‘nothing is impossible for God’

### further suggested Bible passages for reflection

Jeremiah 29:4-14

*The history and purposes of the exiled people are spelled out, along with their way forward.*

Isaiah 65:17:25

*God’s plan for humanity is revealed with all that this means for God’s people.*

Romans 15:18-24

*Paul clearly states his missionary agenda to the Church.*

Luke 4:16-21

*Jesus takes on His Father’s mission for his own mission in the world.*

Luke 9:1-9

*Jesus’ mission becomes the mission of the disciples.*

## Intercessions

### adapted from Mission Action Plan: Prayers of the People

*[Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway, Scottish Episcopal Church]*

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, hear us as we pray for the mission of your Church:

For the outpouring of your Spirit upon the Church, for your way to be known upon earth, and your salvation among all nations, we pray to you, O God.

**Lord, hear our prayer**

For this diocese and our Bishops, for grace and strength to lead us in mission, we pray to you, O God.

**Lord, hear our prayer**

For grace to work together in the growth of your kingdom, we pray to you, O God.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For grace to serve you, and preach the gospel to all people, we pray to you, O God.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For grace to worship you in spirit and in truth, we pray to you, O God.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

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For our Mission Action Plan and for all who help and guide us, we pray to you, O God.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

 (In this section, choose some specific MAP focus-points, and add particular petitions.)

For growth in our ministry to children and young people: [in particular for ….] we pray to you, O God.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For growth in prayer and the life of the spirit: [in particular for …] we pray to you, O God.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For growth in sound learning and faithful discipleship: [in particular for …] we pray to you, O God.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For growth in numbers, so we may welcome everyone as Christ welcomes us: [in particular for …] we pray to you, O God.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For growth as leaders in mission, to use the gifts you have given us: [in particular for…] we pray to you, O God.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For growth as witnesses to Christ in our community, to reach out to our neighbours with imagination and understanding: [in particular for …] we pray to you, O God.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

- - o o O o o - -

For our brothers and sisters in Christ in this Region, for their own plans for action in mission: [in particular for …] we pray to you, O God.

**Lord, hear our prayer**

For our brothers and sisters who have gone before us, encouraged us by their example, strengthened us by their fellowship, and helped us by their prayers: we pray to you, O God.

**Lord, hear our prayer**

For the courage, imagination, and energy to continue on the road of mission in this, our journey of faith: [in particular for …] we pray to you, O God.

**Lord, hear our prayer**

Spirit of our Loving God, in your mercy and compassion inspire, encourage and empower us to live and work together as a Diocese, to allow your mission for us to take flesh through Jesus Christ our Living and Eternal Lord.

**Amen**

### from Wakefield Diocese\* Our Mission Our Transformation opening liturgy

*\*now a part of West Yorkshire and the Dales Diocese*

That we may know you will and do what you ask of us,

and so be found trustworthy servants and disciples,

we pray to the Lord:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our parish/benefice/team,

that we will be a beacon of love and light and life in this community,

we pray to the Lord:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all people who live, work or worship in our parish/benefice/team,

that our work may touch them and help them

to come to know and serve God,

we pray to the Lord:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our bishops,

for the priest(s)/leader(s)/minister(s) of our parish/benefice/team/deanery,

that they will have the strength and wisdom to shepherd God’s people,

we pray to the Lord:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all those who are touched by the ministry

which our efforts support,

that they will recognise our God as the ultimate source

of all compassion and help,

let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That God may bless the work of our hands,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

- - o o O o o - -

Lord Jesus, you have challenged us with your words from Scripture -

That the ones who "seek to save their lives, will lose it;"

That the ones who "lose their lives for another’s and the Gospel’s sake,

 will save it for all eternity;"

That the "greatest among us is the one who serves the rest;"

That it is "harder for a rich person to enter heaven than for a cam

 to pass through the eye of a needle;"

That our "true treasure is in heaven."

Lord Jesus, you have given us your and the Father’s generous promises:

That you treasure greatly the sacrificial spirit of the widow’s mite;

That you will reward with hundredfold harvest those who sow in the rich soil of faith;

That you will not be outdone in generosity;

That you will not give us burdens that we cannot bear.

Lord Jesus, give us the strength and the faith to respond,

so that we may be responsible stewards of your gifts

and be blessed with the courage, generosity, and selflessness

which help us multiply your gifts among us,

to the glory of your name.

**Amen.**