



PRAYER 2020 - CALL TO PRAY

Pray in 2020 on the 20th of each month at 20:20 for 20 minutes

Pray ... that God will give many opportunities to speak about Christ. (Colossians 4:3 NLT)

This is the invitation from HOPE Together to Christians of all denominations. Through Prayer 2020 we are asking God to work through all that is done in 2020 – personal witness; church outreach plans in villages, towns and cities; stadium events – evangelisation in all its many forms. HOPE's executive director Roy Crowne said, 'Already this is catching the imagination of Christians around the world. 2020 is such a significant year and Prayer 2020 will be a key part of the year.'

Bookmarks and business cards to remind you to pray in 2020 are available from the HOPE shop with more resources being made available soon.

For more information visit www.hopetogether.org.uk

Church Events

The next issue of Together Magazine will be published in early March and cover March, April and May. If you would like your church event or flower festival advertised in this issue please email details to communications@derby.anglican.org by 31 January 2020. Events will also be advertised on the diocesan website and social media channels.

Ashes to Go

Is your church taking part in 'Ashes to Go' on Ash Wednesday?

If so we would like to hear from you.

Please email details of any events taking place to communications@derby.anglican.org

Learning in Faith

Our 2020 course programme is now open for bookings

The new 2020 Learning in Faith course programme, 'Pray, Learn, Tell and Serve Together', is now available. All PCC secretaries should have received a copy and booklets for every church were distributed with the December edition of Together Magazine.

There is a huge array of courses on offer - from familiar favourites, such as 'Talking Faith for Ordinary People' and 'Vocations Exploration sessions, to brand new sessions on 'Instagram' and 'Twitter', and 'Unexpected Child in the Church Area', to name but a few.

Booking a place is easy - visit www.derby.anglican.org/training or call 01332 388687.

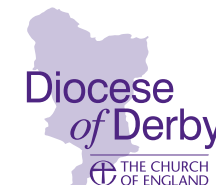
As well as attending sessions yourself, please add Learning in Faith 2020 to your PCC agenda and take the opportunity to discuss what is on offer and how the courses may support your own church to pray, learn, tell and serve together.

In her introduction, Bishop Libby says, 'Taking part in this programme is one way to be fed and nourished by Christ'.

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Our Diocese

January 2020



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Revd Canon Dr Elizabeth Thomson, Acting Dean of Derby, writes...



The light comes back

The earth tilts on its axis and the year turns. We are past the winter solstice. Even though the mornings go on getting darker for a couple of weeks, the light is stretching out and the days are a few tiny seconds longer. 'In the mid-midwinter,' writes the

Scottish poet Liz Lochhead, when everything is bleak, even so

*the light comes back
the light always comes back.*

Christmas has come and the light is here. The carol services, modern or ancient, hesitant or triumphant, hyper-organised or slightly incoherent, candlelit or floodlit, have all proclaimed it: 'the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.' And now in the church year the season of Epiphany offers us time to take in the light, to blink, to look again, to learn to see. An epiphany is a moment of realisation, when something begins to sink in. Christ is born! we have all sung, and now we begin to look at that light and the state of the world it dawns in.

The world's school report at the end of 2019 was not good reading.

Peace: *shows no willingness to put in the effort demanded and is constantly distracted by rumours of wars.*

Truth: *although this concept has been clearly explained, the world keeps finding ways to avoid it.*

Health: *a very worrying tendency to overheat. Overall, could do better.*

So it's bleak and there's a lot of darkness around. But the light shines in the darkness. Epiphany gives us time to think about that. The wise men come following a star and we see how Herod reacts to a threat to his political power. Jesus is baptised among a crowd of people coming out from the city to try to put their lives right. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity reminds us of our capacity to disagree about God's good news. Through all this, through the complexity of working out that good news in the world and through our ability to get it wrong, the light goes on shining.

The light, in Lochhead's poem, is out there, gathering, strengthening, working its way towards us who are still in the dark of winter. 'The light always comes back':

Meanwhile
*there will be the winter moon for us to love the longest,
fat in the frosty sky among the sharpest stars,
and lines of old songs we can't remember why we know
or when first we heard them
will aye come back
once in a blue moon to us
unbidden
and bless us with their long-travelled light.*

**Revd Canon Dr Elizabeth Thomson
Acting Dean of Derby**



Revd Ian Mountford



The Bishop of Derby's office has announced that Revd Ian Mountford died on Saturday 7th December, 2019.

Ian was Associate Priest of Derby St Alkmund and St Werburgh from 2014, Vicar-designate of the same benefice (Derby), previously Curate of Chilwell 1996-2000 (Southwell) and Team Vicar of Thame 2000-2014 (Oxford).

The congregation at St Alkmund's, where Ian worked, was informed on Sunday 8 December.

Revd James Durrant, Assistant Curate at Derby Cathedral, worked with Ian at St Alkmund's.

He said: "He was a fantastic person to work with and greatly loved by everyone in the congregation and by all those in the Diocese that knew him.

"His heart for telling people about Jesus was magnificent and even in his final weeks in the Macmillan Unit he would take time to talk to the staff about Jesus and his faith.

"We were great friends as well as colleagues - this is a great loss and all those who knew him will treasure the memories they have."

Please hold his family, friends and all the ministry team at St Alkmund's in your prayers.

Be a Derby Cathedral Chorister for a day

Derby Cathedral Choir has had a busy December with the hectic Christmas schedule of Carol Services and special events but one thing is certain - the choir has loved every minute and had fun as a youthful energetic team.

So what is it really like to be a Derby Cathedral Chorister? Boys and girls aged 7 - 13 years from across Derbyshire have the opportunity to find out on Saturday, 18 January 2020, when they can join the current choristers from 2.30pm to 6pm for an afternoon of fun musical activities, and the opportunity to sing in the choir for a short service at 5.15pm. Parents are warmly invited to stay for the afternoon to see what goes on behind the scenes!

Places are limited - to book email music@derbycathedral.org or call 01332 202231.



Crowdfunding boost for church roof fund

St Andrew's Church in Radbourne, near Derby, has raised £17,600 through an online crowdfunding campaign as part of its effort to replace the remainder of its lead roof with steel. The campaign ran for four weeks and means that, when added to other donations and fundraising, the project has raised a total of around £30,000 of the £55,000 it needs.

The PCC's crowdfunding project manager, Tim Gretton, said: "St Andrew's has a small congregation - an average of 12 - and raising this money through the usual fundraising activities is not feasible." The church has issued a huge 'thank you' to all those who supported the campaign. Other fundraising will continue this year.

Meanwhile, Monty the nightwatchman helped keep guard over the church and raise awareness during the four weeks of crowdfunding - and he's earned himself a fresh banana!

everyday faith

Our daily lives are often very full. Full of things to do. Full of meetings and deadlines. Full of places to be. Full of people to meet.

Where is God during our daily lives? How do we find God in fullness, in the full-ness of life?

On 12 January 2020 (Plough Sunday), the new Church of England "Everyday Faith" campaign will begin, offering reflections and prayers to help Christians find and follow God in everyday life.

Everyday Faith is a Church of England discipleship campaign, and part of the *Setting God's People Free* workstream under *Renewal and Reform*.

Like #FollowTheStar, the campaign includes an app, social media posts, daily emails, audio and a 21-page reflection booklet written by Nick Shepherd, Mark Greene and Rachel Treweek, with an introduction from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Additionally, an accompanying booklet for churches, *Everyday Faith for churches: seven shifts to inspire Sunday to Saturday faith*, will be available (online only) with simple ideas for small changes that make a big difference to being God's church in the world, Monday to Saturday, as well as Sunday.

For more information and to sign up to receive campaign emails, visit churchofengland.org/everydayfaith.

The Church on the Bus seeks new owner

As reported in Issue 7 of Together Magazine, the Church on the Bus, which took the good news of the Gospel to the homeless and isolated people of Chesterfield and Matlock three times a week, was "taken out of service" in October 2019 to move resources to permanent locations in both Chesterfield and Matlock.

The bus itself is now available to buy! The bus is a Dennis Dart SLP automatic and runs on diesel. It is easy to drive with mileage of 124,000km and MOT in place until October 2020.

The bus has had a previous life as both a library and charity bus and is ideal for mission / social outreach charity work.

Onboard, there are 2 seating areas that will seat up to 12 people, storage cupboards, wardrobe areas and a servery for catering.

Offers around £3,000.00. Please contact churchonthebus@gmail.com or phone Stewart on 07729 895392.

