

Daily Prayers for Lent 2022



The Methodist Church 
Bristol & South Gloucestershire Circuit

COVID

Wednesday 2nd March: Loss

God of Compassion, the LORD our Healer, we look to You with hope in times of distress. We called upon You when the pandemic hit us, and we continue to do so as we wrestle against the emotional and psychological damage inflicted upon us.

Merciful God, Author of life, look in Your tender love and mercy, we beseech You, on all who have lost loved ones and are feeling hopeless and unable to cope with this harsh reality. Fill all with Your Holy Spirit of comfort and encouragement.

Immanuel, God who is with us, be near to all who are living with long-covid to see in You an ever-present help in times of distress. Blessed be Your Name, the LORD who heals.

Amen

Revd Aboseh Ngwana

Thursday 3rd March: The National Health Service

God of healing and wholeness, we pray today for the work of the National Health Service, thanking you for the provisions that have helped us through life's journey, vaccines that have protected us from the worse of diseases, treatment, operations and medication enabling us to function as best we are able. Many of us have applauded workers for their enduring spirit of care during the pandemic and we pray for them as they struggle to cope with ever mounting waiting lists and demands for their services. We pray for further recruitment and ask that you grant to each one your gift of compassion and ability to help heal the sick of mind and body, just as you have done by renewing people's hopes, spirits, and lives through Jesus your Son.

Amen.

Revd Roy Howard

We Give thanks: for all medical staff, doctors, nurses, cleaners, support staff, carers. For researchers, scientists, lab technicians. For all who produced, packaged and delivered and administered the vaccines.

Amen.

Ken Luxon

Friday 4th March: Carers

Divine Father,

I am grateful for the promise that you are everywhere, whether we see or sense you.

With this in mind, we think the carers throughout the UK, those who care within the care profession; and those who care for loved behind closed doors. Bless those serving others in our care homes; encourage them, refresh them after a difficult few years caused by the Covid pandemic.

We ask you to encourage the carers looking after loved ones; often not seen, sometimes feeling isolated. This day do something to bless them in some way. Finally, we think of the young carers out there; looking after parents of are ill. May they sense you close to them, bring good people into their lives to support them, and keep giving hope and all that they need in their day.

Amen.

Matt Albury

Saturday 5th March: Rebuilding

As the world opens, give us caution, inspiration and heart...

Sitting or kneeling –

We contemplate you.

Aggrieved for past, fearing future.

Heart -Joined in the sitting.

So many things to start anew, still Covid threatens...

Standing - We stutter back into life,

Remind us that we still stand;

Spirit -linked shoulder to shoulder.

So we begin to rebuild...

Walking –

Where masked we bumped elbows,

fearing touch and company;

Your reach takes in hand, heart, whole.

And so we go, carrying out your love, as the world opens.

Amen

Sarah James

We look for hope: at new job opportunities, for our better understanding of the value of carers. For the freedom to go out and be with others. To travel.

For training. For good being transported. We move into the light: valuing others who are vulnerable, build a better, more caring and protective society. Valuing contact with those who are isolated. By being hybrid by default. By including more. Loving more.

Amen.

Ken Luxon

JUSTICE

Sunday 6th March: Gender Equality

Dear Lord God and Creator of all.

We are grateful that you have created us

To be exactly who we are.

Your word said you looked at all that you made and deemed us good.

Dear Lord God and Creator of Love.

You created us to love and be loved.

Even in your time of creation you walked with humanity

And knew we would always need your gentle loving touch.

Dear Lord God and maker of all humans

You bless us to find love among those who look like us and those who differ.

Our love is not just about sex, but is also about companionship,

Holding hands and touching hearts.

Dear Lord, we are thankful for love in all its forms, genres, hues, rainbows and colours. Thank you for not judging our love or who we love. In your mighty and perfect name, we pray.

Amen.

Revd P.J. Jackson

Monday 7th March: Disability Equality

When the sink is too high, or the path too uneven, Lord forgive us.

When nobody thought to consider audio description or signing, Lord forgive us.

When the nearest suitable mental health provision is 200 miles from family, Lord forgive us.

Teach us to notice what will include and affirm and speak up for it.

Help us to go out of our way to meet others in the way of love as you did, Jesus.

Amen.

Naomi Sharp

Tuesday 8th March: Racial Justice

Great God of the Universe,

In this Lenten season we hear the words of your Son Jesus Christ, “Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him”. We put the Lord our God front and centre of our lives today. Only you are worthy of our devotion and praise.

Lord Jesus, you gave us a family prayer that began, “Our Father” showing that we belong to one family – that we are brothers and sisters, responsible for each other.

We confess that we do not always live as members of your family. We allow our differences of language, ethnicity, accent and skin colour to become a reason to reject and undermine each other. We have allowed the love of power and control to create systems and philosophies that divide and degrade us. Lord, we ask for your forgiveness.

Grant us the courage to confront our collective history, and be unafraid to be biased towards goodness, justice and truth-telling. May we reject everything that denies the full humanity of every person. We pray that our hearts and minds may be purified from every stain of racism.

Lord, help us to rejoice in the kaleidoscope of peoples and cultures in our communities. Help us to see and experience the bouquet of fragrance, colour and taste of all of humanity as you created us to be. All to the honour of God our Eternal Parent.

Amen.

Revd Novette Headley

Wednesday 9th March: Poverty and Economic Justice

Father God thank you for your most wonderful creation of this earth and the cosmos in which it resides. We are mindful that you placed the responsibility for Earth’s wellbeing in our human hands, but due to avarice and greed we have raped the sea and oceans of its resources and damaged the land by the felling of trees and mass industrialized farming. These behaviours have been instrumental in creating inequality, poverty, disease, and destruction of areas of human habitation. Father, please forgive our greediness to take for ourselves more than we need while others go hungry, cold, and bereft of self-worth. We pray that your spirit will reign over individuals, authorities, leaders, and institutions such that it will engender us all to do our part to bring justice and equality to all. So that all will have access to suitable housing, food, education, and health care. We ask this in the precious name of Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

Amen.

Kevin and Ruth Marshall

Thursday 10th March: Freedom of Speech

Living Word of God, You have given humans the power to communicate ideas and emotions, fears and hopes.

We pray for all whose voices are silenced and those who fear to speak.

We cry out for freedom for those imprisoned for their views.

Forgive us when we speak without thinking, hurting others.

May we work towards a world where all may speak freely, and build others up by what they say.

Amen.

Naomi Sharp

Friday 11th March: Rights and Respect in Old Age

Father, Creator of all, as people get older, and the outward signs of aging become apparent, enable us to respect and value the experience, knowledge, and wisdom that the years bring. Help us to see beyond the frailty that age can produce, to have patience with people that take a little longer to do or say things, and give them the time they need. Let us ensure as far as we are able that their dignity and rights are never compromised, and to recognise within each person, whatever their age is an individual, made and loved by you. In the name of Jesus who came for all people,

Amen..

Brenda Isherwood

Saturday 12th March: The Criminal Justice System

God of peace, we long to live in a world of human harmony.

Strengthen all those who work to maintain peace and order, and to administer justice, in the police, in prisons and the probation service, in courts, tribunals and in government departments.

May they be well resourced and motivated to serve the common good impartially.

May justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream.

Amen.

Naomi Sharp

THE BRISTOL AND SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE CIRCUIT

Sunday 13th March: Circuit Staff

Divine Father

Thank you for all those that work within our Circuit to help with running The Church. We thank for the Administrators, the Lay Workers, Presbyters, Chaplains, and the Superintendent.

We are promised that you know us all intimately and we ask that each member of the Circuit Staff Team will feel you close, that you will encourage them, enable to hear you clearly in their daily lives; so they are strengthened, that they rest and feel inspired as they serve.

(Pray by name for any Staff Members who come to your mind as you sit in prayer)

Amen.

Matt Albury

Monday 14th March: Church Stewards

Almighty God, my heavenly father

You are all seeing, all knowing, all loving

I thank you for watching over me and helping me

I want to worship you. I want to serve you.

Help me Lord

To make worship relevant to those you have called,

to assist those who lead worship,

to enable others to grow and feel part of your family.

Help me Lord

To listen and not to judge,

to be responsible and think of others not just myself,

to understand people's individual needs.

Help me Lord

To ask for help when things get on top of me,

to share my load,

to admit that at times I may struggle.

Stay with me Lord as I steward in your name.

Amen.

Helen Shears

Tuesday 15th March: The Ark and Faithspace

We pray for the work of those on the fringes, finding God through the everyday, being curious and creative,

We pray to have spaces to breath and find peace in a world that is challenging and confusing

We pray that people practice kindness and humility recognising that we are all valuable and unique

We pray that the love of God is known, experienced and felt through daily interactions.

Jenny Bourne

Loving God, thank you for the ministry of The Ark and Faithspace as pioneering projects in this circuit. We pray that their creativity and dedication to sharing Your love in innovative and exciting ways may continue to enable people to see and know something of Your love. Help us to listen to their prophetic call to speak of love and grace in new ways, so that all may know You.

Amen.

Revd Dr Simon Edwards

Wednesday 16th March: Circuit Leadership

Gracious God,

In this Lenten season, we take time to sit with you, in the wilderness. We take time away from the busyness of the world in response to the compulsion of your Spirit – just to be with you. Lord, our first calling is to worship you; to fix our attention and hope upon the God of the Universe; the God all light and truth and goodness.

Only as we set our priority firmly upon you, can we as the Circuit Leadership Team, have any hope of finding the right direction for our churches, congregations, members and our mission.

Faithful God, may we sit still long enough to catch your vision. Help us then, to be enthused and energized to respond with creative action to your leading. Remind us that we can only work if we work together. Unite us in our care of one another – lay and ordained; and unite us in our purpose with you - human and divine.

Guide us on this Lenten journey, in the company of Christ, and to the glory of God.

Amen.

Revd Novette Headley

Thursday 17th March: The Bristol Methodist Centre

God of shelter,

we pray for the work of the Bristol Methodist Centre and for the homeless and vulnerable of the city.

May it be a place of sanctuary and support for all who enter its doors.

Give wisdom to the Management Committee as it reviews the work of the Centre, compassion to the staff as they support the guests, and stir us from our complacency to respond to the needs of our neighbours.

May we see you in the face of every person experiencing homelessness and hardship, so we might seek justice for all.

Amen.

Deacon Corinne Brown

Friday 18th March: Circuit Stewards

Father, we come in Christ to pray for the work of the Circuit Stewards within the Bristol & South Gloucestershire Circuit.

We ask that they are endowed with patience, understanding, willingness to learn, wisdom, integrity, commitment, resilience and the fortitude to express openly their thoughts and ideas.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our Prayer

We pray that they use all the gifts that you have bestowed on them through life's experience, through gifts of communication, through pastoral gifts and the gifts of the Spirit.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our Prayer

We thank them for offering their time, their talents and themselves in the service of Christ's church. We thank them for the many hours they spend supporting ministers, sorting problems, reading through vast amounts of information and planning for the best possible outcome for the Circuit.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our Prayer

We also remember their families and thank them for supporting them in their work and for their understanding of the amount of time that it takes.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our Prayer

Lord, may the Stewards continue to work humbly, modestly and with love and that they never forget that what they are doing is for your glory and your glory alone.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our Prayer

These prayers we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Ros Sledge

Saturday 19th March: Local Churches

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the life and ministry of the churches of our circuit. For: Alveston; Badminton Road; Bethesda; Bishopston; Easter Compton; Eastville Park; Eden Grove; Hanham; Hawksbury Upton; Horfield; Holy Trinity Bradley Stoke; Kingswood; Made for Ever; Olveston and Tockington; Parkway; Potters Wood; St Andrews; St Chad's' St Peter's; Shirehampton; Shortwood; South Bristol: Bedminster, Knowle, St Peter's, Totterdown; Speedwell; Staple Hill; Summerhill; Thornbury; Longwell Green; Unity Oldland; Victoria; Watley's End; Wesley Memorial, Westbury-on-Trym; The Church in Westbury Park; Winterbourne Down; Withywood; Yate; and Zion. We remember before You all who work and witness to Your love and grace from each church. We lift to you those who must make difficult choices, or who face an uncertain future. Yet, in all we face, we are certain that there is nothing that can separate us from your love, revealed in Jesus, and so help us to rely on you and take comfort in your constant presence.

Amen.

Revd Dr Simon Edwards

THE ENVIRONMENT

Sunday 20th March: Eco Church

In this continuing climate emergency, we pray for all churches engaged in the Eco Church programme, whether gaining awards or starting on the journey. We give thanks for the commitment to care for God's earth which this represents across the Methodist Church nationally.

We pray for eco groups working to raise awareness in their churches; for Church Councils seeking ways of reducing the impact of their buildings and land on the environment; for preachers addressing global concerns in their prayer and preaching; and for congregations as they embrace climate values

in their daily living, through recycling, ethical investment or reducing their carbon footprint.

May God's people everywhere tread lightly on the earth entrusted to us.
Amen.

Mike and Pauline Culshaw

Monday 21st March: Community Gardens

Creator God,
we thank you for green and open spaces that surround our homes and churches and for the privilege of nurturing and tending all that grows and lives within them.

We thank you for the community garden at Parkway, community allotments at Eden Grove and the produce grown there offered in love to the local community.

We thank you for those who care for our church grounds. Develop the imagination of all our churches to be more creative in the use of outdoor space and generous in offering them as places of welcome to the community.
Amen.

Adam Biddlestone

Tuesday 22nd March: Forest Church

Father God,
maker of the trees, we approach you in wonder.

As we consider a single leaf, we are in awe that each is unique and perfectly made.

May we know your care and consideration in the details of our lives too.

May our thoughts be in tune with your natural rhythms and may we experience peace.

Amen.

Rebecca Clark

Wednesday 23rd March: Recycling

We thank you for the resources of the world, and for the many goods available to us.

Grant us wisdom and restraint in our spending and consumption.

Grant us inspiration in the re-use and recycling of resources.

Bless those who collect our waste and those who work to recycle it.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

Amen.

The Diocese of Newcastle

Thursday 24th March: Tree Planting

All-creating God,

we lift ourselves in praise at the wonder and beauty of all creation.

We confess those actions which have harmed the vitality of the earth and ask your forgiveness.

We give thanks for the trees we see around us, for the history they hold within, the signs they show us today, the hope they bring for the future.

We commit ourselves to care for them, to encourage the planting of new trees which in turn will root, transform and protect all of creation in your image.

Amen.

Revd Patrick Stonehewer

Friday 25th March: Water Pollution

Lord, as the life seems to ebb away from our refreshing streams and waterways we don't need to ask why, we only need to pray for the strength to put your creation first instead of relaxing our efforts to do things properly. As we focus on water pollution, we know that the sea is also awash with the debris of years of carelessness and disregard for the fragility of the waters and the creatures that seek to thrive, so open our eyes to the solutions and give us the motivation and confidence to speak out and do all we can to turn the tide of abuse. Enable all creatures to thrive in your living waters as we pray today.

Amen

Jenny Clark

Saturday 26th March: Public transport

We love public transport, Lord! (When it runs on time 😊.)

We ask for wisdom for planners and local authorities as they make decisions so that as communities we can reduce our carbon footprint by sharing travel resources.

May there be creative provision to include rural areas, development of technology for greener buses and trains, and investment in cycling infrastructure.

May the sounds of buses, trains, bikes and scooters be a song of praise.

Amen.

Naomi Sharp

THE METHODIST FAMILY

Sunday 27th March: The People Called Methodist

Loving God, we give you thanks for the people called Methodist throughout the world. We lift to you each minister, each member and all those who are touched by your love and grace through the ministry of Methodists. May each of us, in whatever country we reside, live out Your grace and love. May we be people of peace and justice, and may all that we do bring glory to You.
Amen.

Revd Dr Simon Edwards

Monday 28th March: Methodist Women in Britain

Living Lord, we ask for your guidance as we seek to raise awareness of racism and gender issues in a world of inequalities. May we have the compassion to listen to our stories, learn from each other and find you in the centre of our lives. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Jen Gardner

Tuesday 29th March: The Connexional Team

Loving God, we give you thanks for the Connexional Team. We pray particularly for Sonia and Barbara, the President and Vice President of Conference, and for Jonathan and Micky the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Conference. We ask for your wisdom and guidance in their work for You. We also remember all who work in Methodist Church House, whose work too often goes unseen, but is invaluable in enabling the whole Church to work for Your glory.

May each member of the Connexional Team know more of Your love, grace and peace each day.

Amen.

Revd Dr Simon Edwards

Wednesday 30th March: MHA

God of mercy
At this time of anxiety and fear
We thank you for the dedicated work of MHA.
We pray your blessing on all who wash feet,
Who bring healing,

Who sit with the dying
Who bring comfort in confusion
Who bring peace to the afraid
In this we see the love of Jesus
Who is our strength and hope,
In whose name we pray
Amen.

Revd Dr Barbara Glasson

Thursday 31st March: The Bristol District

Dear God, today we hold before you the Bristol District of the Methodist Church, praying particularly for our Chair Jonathan and Deputy Chair Steve. Without the long list of volunteers, the work of the District just couldn't happen, and so we give thanks for all those who do work in the name of the District.

As we approach the Spring Synod we give thanks for those who are stepping down this summer and pray for those preparing to take up new responsibilities. Aware that like in so many other places there are a number of vacancies, we pray that people might feel called to come forward and help. God, we hold before you our siblings in Christ across the District in the 9 Circuits, this Lent may they, and us, be blessed in our journey with you and come to live as Easter People.

Amen.

Revd Leigh Maydew

Friday 1st April: The United Methodist Church

We give thanks for our neighbours of other religions – in our families, communities, nation and world – who hold fast to the same values of love, justice and peace that we have as Christians. We give thanks for those places around the world, especially within Britain and the UMC, where dialogue, fellowship and service exist and strengthen our communities. We pray for an end to violence against people of different religions and for a deepening of our relationships with those of other faiths so that together we can work for the common good, united by a common commitment to our neighbours.

Bishop Sally Dyck
(From: The Methodist Prayer Handbook)

Saturday 2nd April: Methodist Vocation and Training

“Study to show yourself approved” to the glory of God.

Loving Lord, we desire in this ministry to lift up the lovely name of the Lord Jesus, and to glorify our Father in heaven. Bless our ministry we pray, and may your Holy Spirit lead and guide all we say and do. May we be changed more and more into the image of Jesus as we seek to follow his command, to love as he has loved us.

As we study to be disciples of Jesus and teach and preach as he did, we open our arms and hearts to welcome in the Holy Spirit that it may lead and guide us on this faith journey.

When we stand at your communal table of bread and wine and utter the words that Jesus spoke of remembrance, we stand humbled by the awesome responsibility this opportunity brings.

Bring us Lord Jesus under your wings and allow us to sit at your feet like Mary and take in and absorb all that you bring to us.

Receive our prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in our vocation and ministry we may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Revd P.J. Jackson

EDUCATION, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Sunday 3rd April: The regional Learning Network

Lord, we thank you for this period of Lent;

- For the time it gives us to prepare to remember the ongoing story of Easter
- For the opportunity to reflect upon what that remembrance means for us
- For all that we learn about you and your nature, and how we come to understand your will.

We don't like to wait, it's not our nature. It's not how life is lived today, but

- As we wait, we learn to listen for your still small voice
- As we listen, we start to hear how you speak in many different ways
- As we hear you, we begin to understand our place in your world, community and church

In the stillness of our waiting, we praise you

- For those you have sent to teach us of your love and grace
- For those who have challenged our patience and our conscience, and helped us grow in the process

- For all that we discover in the process of waiting, reflecting and listening and learning.

We give thanks for the many ways we can connect with one another and with you

- In person, alone in our homes
- In gathering with friends, family and other Christians in Church and in house groups
- In non-physical ways by telephone, radio, television, or online through the gift of technology that is shrinking our world.

We prepare to retell the familiar, yet ever new, story of Easter;

- We wonder afresh at the incarnate God who chooses to suffer, for love of us.
- We marvel at those who could not see who Jesus was
- We consider how we might share that wonder with others

We recommit ourselves to follow you, to learn more about you and to use what we learn to live for you.

Amen

Howard Wilson

Monday 4th April: Local Preachers and Worship Leaders in Training

God of all wisdom and understanding, you are worthy to receive all that we offer through the life of our Circuit churches. Bless those who are called to be worship leaders and local preachers. Inspire them in their study, preparation and delivery as they lead your people in our church services. We pray especially for Loice Maisokwadzo, Evelyn Govera and Jamshaid Tariq as they start their training to be local preachers. May we all experience the wonder and fulfilment of serving you in worship and mission.

Amen

Revd Dr John Emmett

Tuesday 5th April: Early Years

Dear Lord, thank you for those who work and care for the very youngest in our society.

For the joy of seeing the world through the eyes of a child; the wonder of creation as a worm wiggles its way through the mud, the sheer exuberance of splashing in puddles, the delight at seeing a plane in the sky.

For the patience and words of encouragement as children learn to do things for themselves and sharing in their achievements.

For the loving, caring relationships that are fostered between children and their carers.

For the words of wisdom and reassurance given to parents and support given when new parents feel overwhelmed or isolated due to covid.
For the ability to be playful; sharing imaginative journeys where dinosaurs ride on trains, drinking endless cups of 'pretend tea', singing songs, creating silly rhymes, sharing stories.

For the cuddles that make the world a better place.

Amen.

Helen Barnett

Wednesday 6th April: Primary School

God, we want to say thank for our teachers, for their kindness and for helping us learn.

We pray that you will help students to learn and to enjoy school.
We pray that you will help people learn about your love.

Amen

Esther and Philip Davies

Thursday 7th April: Further Education and University

Creator God, you surround us with the mysteries of the universe. Bless students at the University of Bristol and the University of the West of England (UWE) with curiosity.

As they grow in understanding may they draw closer to you - the source of all knowledge.

Bless staff with wisdom and creativity as they nurture skills and talents for use in the world.

Bless the Chaplaincy teams with the gentleness of your Spirit as they draw alongside staff and students who need support – particularly following the Covid pandemic.

By your Spirit, fan into flame the spark of faith in those who seek you, so they might find you and grow in you.

Amen.

Deacon Corinne Brown

Friday 8th April: Education at the New Room

All-knowing God,

We thank you for all who seek to teach and all who seek to learn.

We thank you that there is always something new to discover, whatever age we may be.

We thank you for the gifts of curiosity and exploration.

Today, we give thanks for the work of the education team at John Wesley's New Room, who seek to tell the story of the Wesley's and make those stories relevant for today.

We pray for wider work across Bristol on subjects like slavery and abolition, equality, justice and diversity.

We pray for that equality to be seen in the entire education system in the UK, so that every child may be given opportunities to learn and thrive.

Amen

Revd Mandy Briggs

Saturday 9th April: Schools

Teacher God,

We offer to you the life and work of schools in our community, for the distinctive nature and work of church schools. We give thanks for the life of Holy Trinity and St. Peter's Methodist / Anglican Schools.

Bless and guide all teachers, support staff and governors as they work to create caring and exciting environments for children to learn and develop. We give thanks for the way they have all coped with the extra pressures of COVID.

We thank you for the work of Bristol Schools Connection, for the project workers Liz Ogborne and Jane Gillis. Guide their work as they work to link schools with churches, develop prayers spaces in local schools and engage churches in sharing the Easter in a Box project.

Amen.

Adam Biddlestone

GLOBAL ISSUES

Sunday 10th April: Economy

Heavenly Father,

One thing is sure, you have never been economic with your love for us.

Most of us are confused how, other than rising prices and a squeeze on our lifestyles how the economy affects us. We pray for just society where wealth is not used to exploit the less wealthy, where people of influence are mindful of the less fortunate and a society where all feel safe, all feel valued and there are no vulnerable.

This I'm sure is a society where real growth would flourish regardless of the economy.

Amen

Phil White

Monday 11th April: Modern Slavery and Exploitation

Heavenly Father, thank you that you are a God of justice. Thank you for organisations working to rescue and restore victims of slavery and exploitation. We ask you to draw near to staff walking alongside people who have experienced trauma. Lord, help restore the vulnerable so they can experience lives of wholeness and joy. Help us too, that we may repent of the times we have acted unkindly and not regarded the oppressed. Lord, give wisdom to lawyers seeking to bring criminals to justice. Please break down the barriers to ensure justice systems are strengthened. Lord, have mercy on our broken world. Thank you that we are not a people paralysed by despair, but a people who can 'be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer' – (Romans 12:12).

Amen

Kate Rogers

Tuesday 12th April: Politics

Thank you that you are sovereign. Your plans and purposes never fail, you are good, and you hold all things together. Lord, help us to remember that truth when scrolling our news feed or engaging in political discussion. Help us to be gentle towards those with opposing political views so that through our interactions we can show Christ. Forgive us when we are quick to speak and slow to listen.

Lord, we lift up the UK government and ask for your mercy and wisdom in directing our leaders through the political, social, and economic challenges facing our country and our world today. Help to restore trust and strengthen unity. Help our leaders to lead by example, and help us too, as we seek to be a people who are salt and light to those around us.

Amen.

Kate Rogers

Lord, we pray for all those who are involved with political action whether it be in a local context or worldwide, as part of church life, daily living or praying for those who have the power to change other people's lives.

Lord Jesus Christ, you knew in your earthly life that your message of love would cause political upset that ended with you on the cross. Help us this Lent to spread your love into all areas of political life.

Amen.

Christine Perkins

Wednesday 13th April: Poverty

Bountiful God, our Heavenly Father, you give us so many good things; help us to remember your children throughout the world who, through poverty, lack even the most basic necessities of life. We ask you to open our eyes to their suffering, and to open our hearts to respond to their needs with generosity of spirit, so that the bounty of your world may be more fairly shared. We ask this for the sake of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Jane Cottrell

Thursday 14th April: Asylum and Migration

God creator of all,

For people who are displaced,
may they find a safe refuge.

For people who have lost control of their lives,
may they know a sure foundation.

For people who live in fear,
may they be given a strong fortress.

For people who are disillusioned,
may they have hope in a future.

Loving father in times of crisis, sorrow and uncertainty
we ask that you draw near.

Amen

All We Can

The suffering of refugees rightly moves us to compassion. Women, children and men who have left everything. We pray that all their needs will be met. We pray for trauma counselling and medical care, that every wound will be healed.

Give wisdom and protection to those who work with refugees.

We pray that refugees' hopes for a safe home and a brighter future will be fulfilled.

We pray that governments will listen to experts to shape an evidence based, compassionate, long-term plan where countries work together to implement a just solution for refugees and the communities which receive them.

Amen

Carol Jones

Friday 15th April: International Development

Loving God,

in a world where we receive news and pictures from the other side of the globe, we praise you for the skills and resources employed to make this possible.

Help us to appreciate the talents of people everywhere.

May we replace judgement by a will to share ways of meeting the needs of all people.

May we work to change anything spoiled by human greed, carelessness, and exploitation.

May we understand that what we need to develop is a respect for each other and our planet.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, who developed a new Kingdom in your Name.

Amen

Revd Gordon James

Saturday 16th April: Peace and reconciliation

Creator God,

We pray for peace throughout the world.

Peace where the pain hurts most, especially deep within us where we suffer hidden internal violence.

We pray for a peace greater than hate and war. A peace without end that does not give up and won't lie down.

A peace bringing reconciliation and justice to all.

Peace in all areas suffering from poverty or war.

We pray for peace to enter the hearts of all who are plotting violence.

All powerful God, defeat the darkness of evil in this world and enable your Holy Light to bring eternal peace.

Amen

Sue Mefo

Grant, we beseech thee, O Lord, that by the observance of the Lent we may advance in the knowledge of the mystery of Christ, and show forth his mind in conduct worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gelasian Sacramentary, 5th Century.

Thanks to all who have contributed prayers.

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