

PRAY WITH THE WORLD CHURCH

**PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS FROM
THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION**

11 June - 2 December 2023

USPG⁺ UNITED SOCIETY
PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this new edition of the USPG prayer diary.

At the beginning of the year, we gathered in Tanzania with primates and delegates representing member churches from across the Anglican Communion for USPG's International Consultation - Set my People Free: The Call of the Church against Human Trafficking. Those attending recognised that human trafficking and modern-day slavery are global challenges that churches have a key role in tackling in collaboration with government, agencies and other organisations. Some of our prayers in this edition tackle themes that we discussed and reflected upon during our time together.

It is in collaboration with governments, organisations, communities and individuals that real change is possible. When the Church works together to tackle an issue, what a difference it can make! Let us also remember that we can join our voices together in prayer, ensuring that we bring these issues to our Lord and Saviour. Let us remember what a powerful tool prayer is and how it connects us all wherever we are in the world. Thank you for joining with us in daily prayer.

As with most charities and organisations in the current economic climate, we are having to look at our costs and make sure that we are distributing charity funds in the most efficient way possible. Despite this being a pocket-sized publication, it still costs a substantial amount to design, print and post. We have taken the decision to produce two editions a year with no change to you being able to pray every day throughout the year. Your next edition will also look different – so look forward to that landing on your doorsteps in November.

Rachael Anderson, Communications Manager

11 – 17 JUNE

OPENING THE WORLD FOR CHILDREN THROUGH LEARNING

The Estate Community Development Mission (ECDM) was set up by the Church of Ceylon to support tea plantation workers in Sri Lanka. The church has a long-term commitment to advocacy work amongst Sri Lanka's plantation communities, seeking legal rights for tea plantation workers and their families. The ECDM grew out of this. USPG has supported this programme since 2013.

The ECDM seeks to serve all plantation workers, irrespective of religion, caste or ethnicity. One key aspect of the ECDM's work focuses on the children of tea plantation workers, ensuring that they have access to a good education, preventing them from having to enter the labour market at a young age.

The programme runs five pre-schools, catering for 120 children. It provides extra coaching and guidance to children to enhance their knowledge and social skills and integration; at present, 163 children benefit from the programme in this way. The programme also conducts seminars for students preparing to sit major school exams.

Sunday 11 June (1st Sunday after Trinity)

Lord God,

We pray protection over all your children

May they experience childhood in its fullest

Able to sing, dance, laugh and learn

Safe and loved

Monday 12 June (World Day Against Child Labour) Pray for the protection of children throughout the world from the injustice of child labour.

Tuesday 13 June We pray for all children who are currently forced into labour. For the situations that are leading to their forced involvement.

Wednesday 14 June We pray for programmes across the world that seek to educate and support children so that they can stay in school instead of having to work.

Thursday 15 June Let us pray for the Church of Ceylon and for the long and cherished relationship that USPG hold with them. May it continue to flourish in the future.

Friday 16 June We pray for The Estate Community Development Mission – for all they are doing for workers and especially their children so that they can experience an education.

Saturday 17 June (Bernard Mizeki) Let us give thanks for the life of Bernard Mizeki, African missionary and martyr.

Almighty and everlasting God, who kindled the flame of your love in the heart of your holy martyr Bernard Mizeki: Grant unto us your servants a similar faith and power of love that we, who rejoice in his triumph, may profit by his example through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

18- 24 JUNE

THE SNOWDROP THAT NEVER BLOOMED

Almost a year on from the conflict starting in Ukraine, USPG and the Diocese in Europe were able to visit some of the projects funded by the money raised from our joint appeal – including “Ukrainian Space” a Day Centre and Educational Facility in Budapest. The space offers children aged 8 to 16 schooling and a safe space for their parents to chat, support one another and learn new skills.

Ukrainian Space also offers activities for children and parents to do together such as art classes. One child drew her story in the days before she and her mother fled Ukraine.

“One of our students, together with her Mum, would pass a snowdrop on their walk to school every morning. It was in mid-February and this snowdrop was just about to bloom. It was still a bud. Every day the Mum would say to her daughter “You have to wait, maybe tomorrow, maybe tomorrow”. When they saw that the flower would bloom for sure on the following day, it was on the following day that everything happened. The war began, and the missiles hit their native city in South Ukraine. They had to flee. The girl never saw the snowdrop bloom. It began to appear to her in her dreams, a symbol of the war and the fact that it had prevented her from seeing her favourite flower bloom. Snowdrops are also the first sign of spring. For this girl, spring never happened and winter continued”.

Sunday 18 June (2nd Sunday after Trinity / Father's Day (inUK))

Eternal God,

Bless us with the spirit of unity.

May we embrace difference,

And work with each other,

To put our faith into action.

Monday 19 June (International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict): We pray for everyone affected by sexual violence, particularly survivors of conflict. May we continue to raise our voices against this

abhorrent weapon of war.

Tuesday 20 June (World Refugee Day) We pray for refugees, displaced and stateless people. May we greet them with open arms and welcoming hearts, showing God's love through our words and actions.

Wednesday 21 June We pray for all the children displaced through war and conflict. We pray for peace and comfort over their hearts and minds and give thanks for creative activities that help them process their trauma.

Thursday 22 June (St Alban, Windrush Day) Let us give thanks for the life of St Alban, and for the rich and varied contributions of immigrants to our society. May we recognise their works and offer hospitality to all who migrate to the UK today without prejudice and fear.

Friday 23 June (International Widows Day) We pray for an end to the poverty and injustice faced by millions of widows and their dependents throughout the world.

Saturday 24 June (Birth of John the Baptist) Let us give thanks for the life and ministry of St John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus.

25 JUNE – 1 JULY

FREEING PEOPLE FROM THE TRAPS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Church in North India's diocese of Durgapur launched its Anti-Human Trafficking Programme with support in 2011. The programme's main objective is to spread awareness about human trafficking and show local people how they can protect themselves and others from getting trapped.

The programme conducts awareness campaigns and rescue missions and built a network with local government and law officials. It organises prevention workshops and camps where experts in trafficking-related issues explain the various ways human traffickers work and the reasons victims get pulled in. One of the main reasons is poverty; other factors include corruption, civil unrest, and a lack of access to education or jobs.

The programme also has a focus on gender equality. It highlights child marriage, which can often lead to the trafficking of girls and young women, and it collaborates with women's self-help groups to make people aware of the various livelihood programmes and schemes offered by the government.

Sunday 25th June (3rd Sunday after Trinity)

Heavenly Father,

we pray for all people who have been tricked or coerced into slavery; suffering physical, emotional, and sexual abuse.

We know that nothing is hidden from You,
and we cry out to You for justice, freedom and mercy.

Monday 26 June (International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking / International Day in Support of Victims of Torture)

God of justice and mercy, help us remember this day that you have created each person with dignity and worth. We pray for every life that has been touched by torture and illicit trafficking. We pray for restoration and peace.

Tuesday 27 June Healing God, may we look to You in uncertain times. Let us take the words of your Son to heart: "Do not fear, only believe" (Mark 5:36).

Wednesday 28 June We pray for the Church in North India and all they are doing to prevent Human Trafficking and the support they are providing survivors.

Thursday 29 June (Saint Peter and Saint Paul) Almighty Father, let us remember the examples of St Peter and St Paul, two of your most loyal disciples. May we seek to emulate the conviction of their faith through our deeds and words.

Friday 30 June We pray for governments, agencies and individuals who seek to prevent Human Trafficking and who support survivors. We pray that we too may play our part in ending Human Trafficking.

Saturday 1 July We pray for strength and steadfastness in the work of repairing the world. In all things may we honour you and the dignity of each person. Amen.

2 – 8 JULY

FEAST - FELLOWSHIP OF ANGLICAN SCHOLARS OF THEOLOGY

Peniel Rajkumar

USPG launched its new global forum of scholars engaged in theological research and education in February. This forms part of our continuing commitment to stimulate, support and strengthen theological engagement across the Anglican Communion.

FeAST, which represents “Open Table,” is true to its name. It’s a place of sharing, challenge, and mutual conversations where a new community of Anglican scholars pursuing theology as a field of study will be formed. Its core goal is to launch a future of Anglican theological research that is truly international in scope and participation.

Global Anglicanism holds boundless theological wealth, much of which is often not sufficiently shared across (and beyond) the Anglican Communion. There are several reasons for this, some of which include a lack of networking opportunities, academic publishing opportunities, and engagement in international academic forums. These barriers have their roots in historical imbalances in global theological studies, which have long favoured and given normative authority to theologies and theological techniques with a Eurocentric bias.

Our aim is that this global forum will change what is being presented at these tables for the edification of the Communion and beyond.

Find out more at www.uspg.org.uk/get_involved/Feast

Sunday 2 July (Fourth Sunday after Trinity)

Healing God,

May we look to You in uncertain times.

Let us take the words of your Son to heart:

“Do not fear, only believe”.

Monday 3 July (Saint Thomas) Let us remember the life and works of St Thomas the Apostle. May we cast aside our scepticism and choose the way that Jesus taught us.

Tuesday 4 July Almighty God. You are the source of all wisdom and truth. Nourish us by your Living Word and fill us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may love and serve you faithfully this day, and always.

Wednesday 5 July Let us pray for our theological institutions, teachers and scholars and for the work of theological education and churches together.

Thursday 6 July We give thanks to all who have answered your call to ministry and all who educate and support them to shape them for your service. May you challenge and nurture them with your Word.

Friday 7 July Proverbs 3:19-22: *By wisdom, the Lord laid the earth’s foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place; by his knowledge the watery depths were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew. My son, do not let wisdom and understanding out of your sight, preserve sound judgment and discretion; they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck.*

Saturday 8 July We pray for all who have a desire and passion for theology that they may be given the opportunities to study and learn more and that they are able to share their knowledge with the wider communion.

9 – 15 JULY

FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE APPEAL - HERMANI'S STORY

Climate change looms across the globe. In India, where 268 million people live in poverty, the crisis is hitting their communities the hardest. Communities like Hermani's. Walking to school each morning, she passes her neighbour's vegetable plots wilting in the harsh sun. She spots animals who have died because there is no water for them to drink.

For Hermani, the future feels frightening and uncertain. It's a heavy burden for her to carry. But you can share this burden, so she knows she is not alone. The Church of South India runs an eco-learning programme teaching school classes about what they can do to tackle climate change.

USPG is launching the Fighting Climate Change Appeal so that with your support, Hermani will learn how to save water and create fertilisers out of waste. She'll understand more about preserving water and planting trees, offering shade for years to come. Your compassion can support India's young climate warriors today.

Find out more at: www.climateappeal.uspg

Sunday 9 July (5th Sunday after Trinity)

“The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it”.

O God,

We have profoundly damaged Creation.

Give us the strength to recover what we have tainted,

Amplify the voices calling for renewal.

Monday 10 July We pray for South India, an area which continues to battle extreme weather and droughts leaving lasting impacts on their communities.

Tuesday 11 July We pray that we walk with love and care on God's earth, with vital awareness of God's comprehensive vision and purpose for his creation.

Wednesday 12 July We pray for the Earth, for nature, for all that surrounds us. Help us care for it and protect it.

Thursday 13 July We bring before you our world leaders and governments as they make decisions around the environment and climate. May they work together with the understanding that all must be involved to create change.

Friday 14 July Today we reflect that we cannot leave the care of the planet to the young. May we all do our bit to protect our environment and God's precious creation.

Saturday 15 July (World Youth Skills Day) Let us pray for young people like Hermani. As they enter a world filled with uncertainty, may You guide them. We pray for skills programmes such as eco-learning that encourage young people to become ambassadors for the environment, protecting our precious world.

16 – 22 JULY

ABUNDANT LIFE – A HUMAN RIGHT

Abundant Life is a programme that USPG has been supporting since 2019 alongside the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI). It seeks to empower the Filipino Church to respond to the issues indigenous people face. The IFI had been standing in solidarity with indigenous people for many years prior and Abundant Life builds on the work those ministries have already established. The programme operates in three areas: Manila, the Caraga Region of Mindanao and the Western Mindanao Region.

Throughout the history of the Philippines, indigenous people have been subjected to discrimination, violence and human rights abuses. Some communities have been forcibly removed from ancestral lands. Many live below the poverty line - “abundant life is not a reality in the Philippines today”.

Abundant Life’s approach is two-fold. Alongside indigenous communities, it offers education and advocacy: people can explore and learn more about their rights whilst lobbying the authorities when these rights are threatened. Within the church, Abundant Life mobilises Christians to stand in solidarity with indigenous peoples and fight for a more just society.

Sunday 16 July (7th Sunday after Trinity)

**Lord, may we secure justice and equality for every human being,
an end to all division,
and a human society built on love and peace.**

Monday 17 July Loving God we pray for the Filipino Church – for all their important work alongside Indigenous communities. May they be empowered to strive towards dignity and freedom for all.

Tuesday 18 July (Nelson Mandela Day) We thank God for the life of Nelson Mandela. For all he did to fight against injustice and bring equality to all to live in peace.

Wednesday 19 July We pray for the people of the Philippines as they face uncertainty and unrest in their country. Lord bring peace and stability.

Thursday 20 July Help us remember Lord, in all that we do, that we are all your children. We are all equal.

Friday 21 July God of peace, pour your love on this fractured world and heal the divisions that grow wider day by day. Guide our leaders, so that they might respect the right of all human beings to live in peace.

Saturday 22 July Let us reflect today that all human life belongs to God. We have been created in the image of God, crowned with dignity and honour.

23 – 29 JULY

REFLECTIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION

Michael Clarke, West Indies

The Consultation was expansive and self-expanding. It opened an area of the human journey which I did not know apart from the terms used; Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery. I found a critical need to revisit slavery as an institution transcending time and space. Listening to the Zanzibar story refreshed the awareness of how often humanity has acted from a place lower than the Creator intended, a severe misunderstanding of dominion.

Then there was the sense that while we strive to have the colonisers acknowledge their misdeeds fully with the view towards a more equitable society in which the teachings and principles of sacred teachers across the ages can be realised; we are faced with the reality that slavery is not behind us but has lived on right under our noses and thrives in virtually every part of the world.

This further awareness challenges how we have shared the Good News. It begs the question: have we been so caught up with making believers that we lost sight of the actual commission to make disciples? To be a disciple is to walk the way. Perhaps we as the Church must repent, turn away from the doctrinal posturing, and pay greater attention to walking the path of love and compassion in a world devoid of such but at the same time filled with growing places of worship. Love and compassion must be superior, as seen in the life of Jesus Christ.

Sunday 23 July (9th Sunday after Trinity)

Heavenly Father

Thank you that we can forge new paths

Help us learn from the past and seek your will in the present

And lay our plans before you. Amen

Monday 24 July Let us pray for the Province of the West Indies, for their service in the mission of Christ.

Tuesday 25 July We thank God that we are able to meet in person now following Covid-19 so that relationships can strengthen, and important conversations take place

Wednesday 26 July Help us Lord, that by understanding our past, we can help tackle modern-day slavery and human trafficking.

Thursday 27 July We thank you Lord for all Primates, Church leaders and representatives from the Anglican Communion who we able to gather in Tanzania for the USPG International Consultation.

Friday 28 July We pray for all the staff, trustees and volunteers at USPG for all they do to bring the mission and objectives of the organisation to fruition.

Saturday 29 July Give us grace Lord to truly listen with open hearts and minds, even when conversations are difficult.

30 JULY – 5 AUGUST

REFLECTIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION

Very Revd Dr Sarah Rowland Jones, Wales

It felt poignantly appropriate that a conference on modern slavery and human trafficking should take place near what was the centre of the East African slave trade 200 years ago. Open slave markets might have gone but sadly slavery still exists and indeed is increasing in the form of sex trafficking, forced labour, and exploitation of those vulnerable through poverty or displacement, including refugees and asylum seekers.

Over the course of the week at the consultation, we listened to those who work to address the issues involved with human trafficking and modern slavery, often in extremely complex and dangerous situations.

It was clear from our discussions that collaboration is an essential dimension to tackling the evil of human trafficking. Churches have an important part to play, both in partnering with others locally and regionally and in working together across the Communion.

At the conclusion, we agreed on a communiqué committing us to work together across the world to address human trafficking by speaking out, working with governments and other agencies, developing networks to share best practices and producing resources to support the work.

Original reflection can be found here: <https://www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/news-and-events/its-time-to-break-the-shackles-of-modern-slavery>

Sunday 30 July (9th Sunday after Trinity)
(World Day Against Trafficking in Persons)

Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy. Proverbs 31:8-9

Monday 31 July Help us Lord to speak up for modern-day slavery around the world. To be vigilant and aware in our communities. We pray that through our actions we can help bring an end to human trafficking.

Tuesday 1 August We remember today that extreme poverty is at the root of most of the trafficking around the world. We pray for a more just society where everyone has money for the essentials in life.

Wednesday 2 August Dear Lord, You are a strong tower and a mighty fortress. Help Your rescued children feel safe and begin to heal. Protect them from others who seek to harm them. (World Vision Prayer)

Thursday 3 August We pray today for the survivors of human trafficking. For God's healing of their bodies, their minds and their spirits. Bring joy and care where there was shame and fear. May all around them keep them safe.

Friday 4 August Lord, help governments, agencies, churches and communities work together to bring the perpetrators of human trafficking to justice. To make and enforce laws to keep the most vulnerable in communities protected.

Saturday 5 August God of all grace, whose love desires the flourishing of all Your children, send us out to witness to this transforming power and to be agents of such amazing grace, Amen

6 – 12 AUGUST

A REFLECTION ON THE EXODUS NARRATIVE (EXODUS 1-13)

Archbishop Linda Nicholls

The Hebrew people arrived in Egypt fleeing drought and famine in their own land. They came following Joseph whose leadership had wisely preserved food in anticipation of hard times (Genesis 41:57). They settled in Egypt, initially in Goshen as shepherds and herders.

“They grew to outnumber the Egyptians which raised fears for a new Pharaoh. Therefore, they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour” (Ex 1:7-11, paraphrased).

They continued to flourish so the oppressions increased. Moses is called by God to release the Israelites from their oppression (Ex 5:1), ‘Let my people go’. He begins by asking for permission for them to worship (Ex 5:1ff). Instead, they are expected to work harder, longer with fewer resources — no straw provided for making bricks and no relief in expected production.

As the people cry for relief, God invites Moses to lead the people out of slavery into a promise of freedom and land. “Then the Lord said, ‘I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey...’” (Ex 5:7-9). Then begin the confrontations with Pharaoh to obtain the release of the people, culminating in the Passover and the crossing of the Red Sea by the Israelites.

This great narrative is the foundational text of redemption for the Jewish people, recited at every Passover celebration. It also invites us to reflect on the dynamics of slavery, oppression, and power and God’s call to action.

Sunday 6 August (10th Sunday after Trinity)

Lord, you are a God who sets the captives free. Your Spirit searches restlessly for those in despair, that they may find the life you are calling them to. We pray for those who are being trafficked and callously put to work in our region. May we who are blinded by the shallow distractions of daily life, feel the fear of the cornered and be roused to action. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Clewer Initiative)

Monday 7 August We thank you for being a God of liberation, for you are ever seeking to bring us into the joy of your salvation; into a just, equitable, and holistic celebration of life.

Tuesday 8 August Accept, we pray, our sorrow for the times when we have not shown compassion and mercy to those you have created in love and for love. Help us grow in courage and hope.

Wednesday 9 August (International Day of the World’s Indigenous people) Father, we come before You today to lift our indigenous brothers and sisters. Lord, they have faced many injustices throughout history, and we pray for Your healing power to touch their lives.

Thursday 10 August Pray for the social justice of indigenous peoples. Pray they will be treated fairly and given the same rights and privileges as other citizens.

Friday 11 August As you told Moses to “set your people free”, help us Lord to always hear your word and protect those in need.

Saturday 12 August (International Youth Day) We thank Lord for all youth workers and ministries within the worldwide Anglican Communion and all the young people in their care.

Archbishop’s reflection from Tanzania and full Bible study can be read here: <https://medium.com/ministrymatters/the-dynamics-of-slavery-and-oppression-and-a-look-at-exodus-b05fe5e74981>

13 – 19 AUGUST

REDUCING STIGMA

USPG has been supporting the HIV Stigma Reduction Programme run by Anglican churches in Zimbabwe since it began in 2016. It tackles the stigma surrounding HIV, welcoming people who have disclosed their status and offering them practical support.

Using the public health system approach known as Information, Education and Communication (IEC), the programme educates the public on basic facts about HIV/AIDS with a combination of media, art and advocacy. Churches conducted campaigns and outreaches in institutions and public spaces, produced special videos and made radio programmes. They designed, produced and distributed IEC material covering issues such as HIV transmission, HIV-related stigma, nutrition and the rights of people living with HIV. The message was spread on Tee shirts, scarves, leaflets, mugs and key rings. Sporting events were organised that included people living with HIV. Special events were organised to commemorate World AIDS Day. The programme also lobbied for policy changes, especially workplace HIV policy and recruitment agencies that demand candidates to disclose their HIV status.

One of the programme's positive outcomes was an increase in the number of people coming forward to find out what their HIV status was. Knowing one's HIV status enables people to make informed decisions. The church was able to show these people where they could receive medication or advice on their diets. They were also able to join one of the wellness groups the church runs the UN have adopted the Anglican Church's model into their faith-based practices.

Sunday 13 August (11th Sunday after Trinity)

Lord, you taught us to love our neighbour,

Help us care for those in need

Give us strength to comfort the fearful, tend to the sick

and assure the isolated of our love. Amen

Monday 14 August We pray for the Anglican Church in Zimbabwe – for all the projects and programmes they are running to give justice and a voice to the oppressed and to care for their communities.

Tuesday 15 August (The Blessed Virgin Mary) Blessed is she who had faith that the Lord's promise would be fulfilled. All generations shall call her blessed.

Wednesday 16 August Let us pray that across the world, the stigma of HIV continues to be reduced and that medical and practical support is made available to all those who require it.

Thursday 17 August Let us pray for all who live with HIV and Aids and all who support and care for them.

Friday 18 August We pray for health workers and health centres serving communities around the world.

Saturday 19 August (International Youth Day) Lord, we give thanks for all who are involved in the healing ministry of the Church.

20 – 26 AUGUST

MODERN-DAY SLAVERY REFLECTION – THE CLEWER INITIATIVE

As this week marks the remembrance of the Slave Trade and its abolition we ask that you take some time to reflect on the history of slavery and how it still has implications today. At the same time, we recognise that slavery still exists across the world and in our own communities.

You may want to use the following prayer written by the Clewer Initiative.

Lord Jesus Christ, we join our prayers with people across the world to ask for your guidance and grace, that we may learn to notice the unnoticed, especially those trapped in modern slavery. Bless all who work to fight this crime and bring freedom to those being exploited.

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

We pray for so many of our sisters and brothers who are suffering through forced labour, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, forced begging, county lines drug trading, forced marriage or forced organ donation.

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy

Especially we ask for the courage and wisdom to discern how we might play a part in reaching out with your love and healing, and in helping our own communities to become more slavery-free.

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy.

AMEN

For more resources – www.theclewerinitiative.org

Sunday 20 August (12th Sunday after Trinity)

Father of everlasting compassion, you see your children growing up in a world of inequality, greed and oppression; help us learn from the mistakes of history, and build a better world where your values are shared by all.

Amen

Monday 21 August (International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism) Pray for comfort for all people who have been affected by acts of terrorism.

Tuesday 22 August (International Day Commemorating the Victims of Violence Based on Religion or Belief) We pray for an end to all forms of religious persecution and sectarianism.

Wednesday 23 August Today we remember all who have suffered and continue to feel the pain borne from slavery. May we repent and learn from the past and build a future free from slavery and oppression.

Thursday 24 August Let us pray for the work of the Clewer Initiative and all that they are doing to fight human trafficking and modern-day slavery.

Friday 25 August (St Bartholomew the Apostle) We pray for all institutions whose patron is the Apostle Bartholomew, Saint and martyr.

Saturday 26 August Lord, we pray for all organisations and people who fight against the marginalisation of the poor and underprivileged.

27 AUGUST – 2 SEPTEMBER

‘REPÚBLICA DE JOVENS’ HOME IN BRAZIL

In Brazil, state fostering services place children in institutions not families. What’s more, when these young people turn 18, they are released from the system with little public policy to support their reintegration into society or financial stability. The Anglican Parish of Inclusion (of the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil), located in the city of Campo Grande, Missionary District, Mato Grosso do Sul, has acted in response to this difficult reality.

In mid-April, they launched the República de Jovens (Young People’s Community House) project. This new initiative, supported by USPG and the first of its kind in the region, accommodates young boys aged 18-21 after their release from governmental foster care. The home is run in partnership with the Diocese, local government and individual volunteers.

For Bishop Mauricio, the Bishop in Charge of the Missionary District of West Brazil, this initiative is the expression of the love of God for all and God’s calling to love and serve always. Bishop Mauricio said that the community is fulfilling its calling to pray, to be present, to listen and to serve.

Sunday 27 August (13th Sunday after Trinity)

Creator God,

You fill us with the breath of life.

May we use our lives for your purpose,

Loving others and loving you

Monday 28 August We pray for Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil, for all their churches and congregations, and for their church leaders and ministry.

Tuesday 29 August Let us pray for the República de Jovens (Young People’s Community House) project. That it will provide a safe place to call home for all who walk through its doors.

Wednesday 30 August We pray for children around the world who are orphaned. May they be surrounded by family love however that may look. We pray too for all who step up to parent orphans.

Thursday 31 August (International Day for people of African Descent)
We pray for the people of Africa and all who have links to the continent.

Friday 1 September Let us lift in prayer The Anglican Parish of Inclusion. May God guide and bless their ministry, especially their community projects.

Saturday 2 September May we look to our communities and reflect on whether we are fulfilling our calling to pray, to be present, to listen and to serve.

3 - 9 SEPTEMBER

HARVEST

As we approach the season of harvest, we are increasingly aware of how many families and individuals around the UK are now relying on emergency food parcels from food banks. Around 3 million parcels were given out last year alone.

Further afield, the Diocese of Kurunagala in Sri Lanka is unique for its work with farmers, plantation sector workers, labourers and interfaith collaborations. The recent economic crisis has had a huge impact on the diocese and it must take this into consideration when it plans its mission activities.

These activities have been a mixture of advocacy towards transformation on a national level and being grounded at a community level. The diocese has extended its outreach work to the most vulnerable with rations being deployed from time to time. A focus on well-being and the protection of children are also key areas the diocese is working on, through seminars and small group visits. To do this, the diocese partners with local Buddhist temples, enabling the Church to reach more people.

This autumn, USPG will be running a Harvest appeal and sharing stories about the amazing work of our partners in Sri Lanka. To find out more, visit www.uspg.org.uk

Sunday 3rd September (14th Sunday after Trinity)

**You shall go out in joy and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.**

Isaiah 55.12

Monday 4 September We pray for food banks and food pantries across the UK and the world. For all who are forced to use them as they can't afford the essentials. For the volunteers and those who donate and for churches and buildings that house the vital projects.

Tuesday 5 September Let us give thanks for charities across the world, for all that they do to provide help and support. We thank God for generous hearts even in the toughest of circumstances.

Wednesday 6 September Thank you, Lord, for volunteers. For the giving of their precious time to serve their communities.

Thursday 7 September We pray for harvests this year and next. That they will be bountiful and protected from the elements.

Friday 8 September We pray for the work, ministry and people of the Diocese of Kurunagala in Sri Lanka.

Saturday 2 September May God the Son, who fed the five thousand and turned water into wine, feed us with his life and transform us in his love.

10 – 16 SEPTEMBER

HOLY CROSS DAY REFLECTION

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
John 3:16

Holy Cross Day confronts us squarely with one of the most important symbols of the Christian faith—the cross. For it is on the cross where Jesus died for our sins to give us life eternal.

As Christians we see the cross so often in our lives – they are in our churches, on books, we may have the image of one in our home, we may wear a crucifix around our necks. In the words we speak on a regular basis, we talk about the cross, in our liturgies and in our prayers. Very simply so many things point to the cross. How often do we walk past a cross and not fully acknowledge its significance? Holy Cross Day is a time for us to reflect on what the cross really means.

For the cross represents the most important truth in the world: that God loves the world so much that he sent his only Son to save the world from itself and everyone—anyone at all—who simply trusts in him will be saved. What an important, life-giving message of hope that is for us all.

Sunday 10th September (15th Sunday after Trinity)

**‘O Lord, You have searched for me and known me
You know when I sit down and when I rise up’
May we listen to God and follow the path
He leads us along for he has a plan for us**

Monday 11 September Yesterday was World Suicide Prevention Day so let us pray for God’s blessing and compassion on all who feel hopeless or vulnerable.

Tuesday 12 September We thank you, Lord, for the hope of the cross.

Wednesday 13 September Ahead of Holy Cross Day, we give thanks for the Holy Cross Theological College in Myanmar and the work they do to train clergy in the Province of Myanmar

Thursday 14 September (Holy Cross Day) Let us pray for strength and courage from the cross as we give thanks for all Jesus has done for us.

Friday 15 September (International Day of Democracy) Thank you, Lord, that we have the freedom to express ourselves and bring about democratic change. May we remember all who live in countries where this is not possible.

Saturday 16 September We remember all those before us who have fought for our rights and continue to do so.

17 – 23 SEPTEMBER

LET JUSTICE AND PEACE FLOW

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to listen and care for our common home, the Oikos of God.

The 2023 theme is “Let Justice and Peace Flow.”

The movement seeks to bring awareness that the world humans have known, enjoyed and celebrated is changing rapidly. Biodiversity is being lost and the hope of keeping average temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius is fading. The futures of young people are threatened. We are presently more aware than ever of the link between fossil fuels, and violence and war.

As the urgency grows it is believed that we must make visible peace with Earth and on Earth, at the same time, that justice calls us to repentance and a change of attitude and actions. Instead of despair, hope can be created if we work together as the People of God. By the Creator’s infinite love and mercy, streams can rise in the desert. An economy of peace can be built instead of an economy based on conflict.

Find out more about the Season of Creation www.seasonofcreation.org

Sunday 17th September (16th Sunday after Trinity)

Creator of Love, thank you for the gift of life,

Which we share with all creation.

Call us again to safeguard everything you have made

For earth and all its fullness is yours. Amen

Monday 18 September We commit to doing all we can do to be good stewards of creation, now and always.

Tuesday 19 September Let us pray for all who are teaching us to care for creation and for the growing realisation we must all work together to care for Earth.

Wednesday 20 September We pray for the hope and resolve that an economy of peace can be built here on Earth, instead of an economy based on conflict.

Thursday 21 September (International Day of Peace) Let us lift to the Prince of Peace everyone involved in peace-making work around the world.

Friday 21 September (International Day of Democracy) We pray for all church leaders who are involved in working to promote peace in their regions. May they be steadfast in their pursuit of justice so that there can be peace.

Saturday 22 September We thank you Lord for the infinite love and mercy you show all Your people. For the blessings You bestow on Your children.

24 – 30 SEPTEMBER

FLINGING OPEN THE DOORS

By the Rev'd Anthony Gyu-Yong Shim, Diocese of Daejeon, Korea

After re-opening the doors of St Mark's Church, Yesan in 2019, Anthony reflects on how he reached out to the local community.

"It was daunting when I first took up my role because when I started the services again there were no parishioners, only my family. I often ask myself 'What can a church do for the local community, not just for the church?'.

I set up a reading group at the church. Some of the people who came had left the church in the past, some were Anglicans and some were not. Thankfully they all attended the first worship service. We also have a programme called 'Shinmyeong Theatre', where people come once a month to see a movie and talk about it. When the government decided that their 'Urban Regeneration New Deal Project' would take place in our area I was appointed a 'village coordinator' and have been working with the residents council on the project.

Love for God and love for our neighbours are the main pillars of the Bible. Christianity has a spirituality of hospitality for strangers. I want St. Mark's to be a place that anyone can easily visit. To come, sit and rest; to seek a religious question or answer, or to have a talk over a cup of coffee. St. Mark's is a small church, but I hope it is a significant neighbour in the community. The church needs to shine humble confidence in Jesus."

Sunday 24 September (17th Sunday after Trinity)

O God make us faithful in the mission of your church

Help us seek justice and work for healing.

Renew us with your Holy Spirit to build your kingdom on earth as in heaven.

Amen

Monday 25 September As yesterday was National Maritime Day let us pray for ministries such as the Mission to Seafarers which offers spiritual support to those whose livelihoods are connected to the seas.

Tuesday 26 September We pray for the Diocese of Daejeon and the Anglican Church in Korea. May we learn from and be inspired by their service to each other and to their communities.

Wednesday 27 September Let us pray for churches re-opening – that their doors will be flung open to welcome in all who seek the Lord.

Thursday 28 September We pray for clergy and lay people within churches who are always looking outward for ways in which they can serve those around them.

Friday 29 September (Michael and All Angels) Almighty God, renew your spirit within us and your churches across the globe.

Saturday 30 September (International Translation Day) We give thanks to all who facilitate translation. Opening dialogues and building relationships between people and churches of different languages.

1 – 7 OCTOBER

SUPPORTING JUSTICE FOR WOMEN IN ZAMBIA

USPG has been supporting The Church in Zambia in combating gender-based violence since 2012. A recent gender justice programme had objectives to help reduce gender-based violence, to get more people to report it when it happens and to mobilise men and young people to be advocates for gender justice.

The church runs a range of educational and awareness-raising activities it also provided counselling services for both female and male survivors of gender-based violence with more than 3,000 people benefiting from this service. The church also provided 600 adolescent girls with basic financial and health education. Priests encouraged the lay leaders in their churches to keep talking to their congregations about the evils of gender injustice.

The role of men within the Church in promoting gender justice is important and they have organised structures that can be channels for transformation. These include the Anglican Men's Union, Boys Brigade and male clergy networks. These groups can commit themselves to promoting gender equality within the Church by enhancing checks and balances and removing gender disparities.

The Zambian Church continues to see success with its approach. Communities have seen an improvement in both the response to and prevention of gender-based violence. Survivors now have increased assets and many are self-reliant. The programme has since been replicated in other communities.

Sunday 1 October (17th Sunday after Trinity)

“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

Matthew 25:40

Monday 2 October As yesterday was International Day of older persons let us pray for the elderly. May their dignity be upheld and their vital contribution to society valued by all.

Tuesday 3 October Let us pray for the Anglican Church in Zambia and the Zambia Anglican Council

Wednesday 4 October We pray for all who are engaged in promoting and fighting for gender justice. May they be encouraged by all that has been achieved and continue to look forward with confidence and hope.

Thursday 5 October (World Teachers Day) We thank you, Lord, for teachers across the world. May we value their work and their wisdom.

Friday 6 October Let us pray for the Church of the Province of Central Africa and its churches across Botswana, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Saturday 7 October Let us pray for women throughout the world. May they be free from oppression and know dignity, equality and the fullness of life.

8 – 14 OCTOBER

AFTER THE STORM

Cyclone Freddy, one of the longest-lasting tropical cyclones ever recorded, wreaked havoc on Mozambique and surrounding countries in March 2023. The storm result in thousands of deaths and many more displaced. Storms like Cyclone Freddy are becoming more regular and intense as a result of the climate crisis.

After the cyclone passed affected countries still had to battle continuous rain and power outages which made search and rescue efforts difficult. The storm has also caused severe flooding, swept away roads and left buildings buried in mud.

The Acting Presiding Bishop of the Anglican Church of Mozambique and Angola, The Most Revd Carlos Simao Matsinhe told USPG at the time:

“Our bishops in the four dioceses of Zambezia, Niassa, Rio Pungwe, and Nampula report that there is an urgent need for emergency food, clothing, tents, and plastic materials to offer immediate protection. There is also a great need for soap, basic sanitary and water purification supplies to help prevent the outbreak of water-related diseases like cholera, which has already claimed lives in some places. There is wreckage among the many churches, clergy residences, and church schools. We urgently need to save lives”

USPG responded by releasing emergency funds to the dioceses of Zambezia, Niassa and Ri Pungwe. We remain in communication with our partners in the area, to offer prayerful and practical support.

Sunday 8 October (18th Sunday after Trinity)

O Lord, even the winds and waves obey your voice.

Calm the winds and still the seas.

Keep us safe

Grant us peace this night

Monday 9 October We pray Mozambique and all countries that were impacted by Cyclone Freddy. We pray for the rebuilding of homes and communities in the wake of the storm.

Tuesday 10 October (World Mental Health) Let us pray for all those who are struggling with their mental health, and who are feeling lost or in despair. May they know how loved and cherished they are. Help us provide support and a listening ear.

Wednesday 11 October (International Day for Natural Disaster) God of hope and mercy, we lift up to you all victims of natural disasters and those responding with assistance and aid. We pray too for the preventative work taking place so the risk of devastation is reduced.

Thursday 12 October As yesterday was International Day of the Girl Child, we pray that women and girls everywhere may live life abundantly as God intended for them.

Friday 13 October We pray for the dioceses of Zambezia, Niassa, Rio Pungwe, and Nampula may their churches be places of refuge for those in need.

Saturday 14 October We pray for all those supporting the relief and rebuilding in areas affected by natural disasters. May people see the light of your love from those who seek to help those in dire need.

15 – 21 OCTOBER

HELPLINE TO WOMEN IN NEED

In 2014 The Church in North India (CNI) launched a women's helpline but the CNI's Delhi Brotherhood Society (DBS) had been supporting women experiencing abuse for over 20 years prior to establishing this. Since it was created, there has been an increase in the number of cases of abuse and harassment being reported to and resolved by the local council, making legal aid and police protection more accessible.

The helpline now plays a key role in the DBS's aims to reduce gender-based violence and provide emotional, medical, legal and financial support to women. Running alongside the helpline is a range of activities on the ground. The Women's Helpline Service holds community meetings, awareness-raising events and celebrations, and provides help with rehabilitation and resettlement, property rights and legal advocacy. Outreach workers and community volunteers trained by the church visit women in person to discuss their cases in more detail. The women - and where necessary, their children and families - are given legal and financial assistance and any other help they might need.

The CNI and the DBS realise that society as a whole needs to be more vigilant in tackling gender-based violence. Towards this end, the church regularly holds meetings and events to raise awareness of gender injustice.

Sunday 15 October (19th Sunday after Trinity)

"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends".

Beloved God,

May we treat one another as true equals.

Let us love each other as your Son taught us to.

Monday 16 October As yesterday was International Day of Rural Women let us pray for programmes run by USPG's partner churches in various parts of the world, aimed at empowering women and girls living in rural areas

Tuesday 17 October (International Day for the Eradication of Poverty)

Let us pray for strength and resolve to eliminate poverty in all its forms around the world

Wednesday 18 October We pray for The Church in North India – for their congregations, their mission, and their church leaders

Thursday 19 October (Luke the Evangelist) Let us give thanks for the life and works of Luke the Evangelist. May we be inspired by his Christian witness.

Friday 20 October Let us give thanks for the Delhi Brotherhood Society, its Women's Helpline programme and the many other initiatives the Society coordinates across Delhi.

Saturday 21 October We pray for a world in which all people are safe from violence and abuse.

22 - 28 OCTOBER

PRAYING FOR PEACE

As the war continues in Ukraine USPG and the Diocese in Europe support several programmes and initiatives to support refugees who flee the country. The Chaplaincy at St Nicholas is one of many chaplaincies that have pooled its resources to help ease the suffering of those refugees having to flee their homes because of the conflict in Ukraine and supports The Vallila Help Centre in its work.

Revd Toumas Mäkipää, Chaplain of St Nicholas, Helsinki has written the following prayer for those affected by conflict.

*Father,
Give wisdom to the leaders of the nations,
that they may be a force for good on the earth.
Sustain the anxious and fearful and renew them with courage from on high,
Comfort all worried families whose loved ones are in danger,
surround them with your love protect them from all harm.
Be with the sick and wounded,
Stand by all prisoners and captives,
let your mercy be shown to all and your power to heal and save.
In Christ Jesus your son, our Lord,
Amen*

Sunday 22 October (20th Sunday after Trinity)

Oh, God of peace and safety

Pour your peace on us

Oh, God of peace,

Grant peace in our hearts

(from an Arabic hymn)

Monday 23 October Lord make us channels of your peace, where there is hatred let us bring your love.

Tuesday 24 October (United Nations Day) We give thanks for the United Nations and the work it does to foster international cooperation on difficult issues like trade and conflict.

Wednesday 25 October Let us pray for peace throughout the world. For an end to all conflicts including the Ukraine.

Thursday 26 October We pray for churches that are in and surround conflict areas. May they be beacons of God's love and peace, providing hope for all.

Friday 27 October We pray for the Diocese in Europe which serves diverse communities across the continent and has been pivotal in providing support to refugees fleeing Ukraine.

Saturday 28 October (Simon and Jude, Apostles) Let us give thanks for the lives and works of St Simon and St Jude. May we emulate them in our discipleship and witness to the Good News.

29 OCTOBER – 4 NOVEMBER

REFLECTION - “HE RESTORES MY SOUL”

Revd. Dale R. Hanson

“I believe that a connection with God’s creation can speak to us at the deepest level of restoring the soul. I remember the first time that truth hit home to me. I was facing tough decisions and I went on retreat to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne in North East England. Whilst there that phrase from our Psalm spoke to me in a way that I had never experienced before – I had all sorts of reading planned, study of thick theological tomes but God invited me to spend the time walking with Him in His creation. Through it, He restored my soul.

In the week before Palm Sunday, I was privileged to visit Lake Hornborga in South West Sweden. At this time of year, it hosts up to 15000 migrating cranes. The prophet Jeremiah contrasts the natural wisdom of migrating birds with human disobedience, “Even the stork in the heavens knows her times, and the turtledove, swallow, and crane keep the time of their coming, but my people know not the rules of the LORD.” (Jeremiah 8:7 ESV)
“here - my experience of being amid God’s creation again restored my soul as I prepared for Holy Week and Easter, the fundamental source of the abundant life that Jesus offers us”.

Why not reflect on how can you connect with creation and encourage others so to do in ways that “restore the soul” and lead to a deeper appreciation of our Creator and the providential Shepherd care we receive?

Adapted from a sermon from Preaching for God’s world:

www.preachingforgodsworld.org

Sunday 29 October (21st Sunday after Trinity)

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

he leads me beside quiet waters,

he refreshes my soul.

Psalm 23

Monday 30 October Thank you, Lord, for the gift of your creation. For the restorative qualities it can bring when we take time to stop and look at the world around us.

Tuesday 31 October We pray Lord for any tough decisions we are currently facing. We offer these up to you Oh Lord, grant us your wisdom.

Wednesday 1 November (All Saints’ Day) Let us give thanks for the lives and legacies of the saints who have gone before us. May we seek to be like them in our witness and devotion to the faith.

Thursday 2 November (All Souls’ Day) We pray for all those who have gone before us. May we cherish our memories of family and friends who are no longer with us.

Friday 3 November We pray for all who need restorative time. May they be given the gift of time, to be able to rest and have the space to be revitalised in the love of God

Saturday 4 November Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul. Worship His holy name. Sing like never before, O my soul. I’ll worship Your holy name.

5 - 11 NOVEMBER

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMMES

The Jobarpar community health programme is part of Shalom: a development project the Church of Bangladesh launched in 1983 with the aim of eradicating poverty, hunger and slavery. USPG has been supporting this project for several years.

There are four main strands to the community health programme: community clinics, health awareness, hygienic latrines and an eye camp for the elderly.

Through the programme's community health awareness activities, many people are learning about healthy nutrition, good personal hygiene and how to take preventive action on primary diseases. A door-to-door service supports pregnant women by bringing antenatal and postnatal care to them at their homes. The mothers-to-be feel comfortable and secure and newborn babies are in good care. Hypertensive and diabetic patients have also expressed their confidence in the service they have received from the programme. The availability of essential low-cost medicine has been a great help to patients.

Sunday 5 November (22nd Sunday after Trinity)

God of all things,

Help us to discern our gifts

And to use them for the common good.

Let us rejoice in the diversity of creation

Monday 6 November Thank you, Lord, for the gift of your creation. For the restorative qualities it can bring when we take time to stop and look at the world around us.

Tuesday 7 November Let us pray for the Church of Bangladesh, comprised of the Dioceses of Dhaka, Kushtia and Barisal.

Wednesday 8 November We pray for the work of St Andrew's Theological College, the Church of Bangladesh's theological training centre. May they continue to nurture and educate prospective clergy.

Thursday 9 November Today we pray for Christians across many churches, denominations, and continents. May we work together to share the love of Jesus Christ with each other and with those who may feel outside of the Church.

Friday 10 November Let us pray for community health programmes, both in Bangladesh and across the Anglican Communion. For the healing and care they provide.

Saturday 11 November (Feast of St Martin of Tours) Today we celebrate the feast of St. Martin of Tours, we give thanks for his bravery in refusing to fight and instead following his faith.

12 - 18 NOVEMBER

A PRAYER FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AND INTERNATIONAL DAY OF TOLERANCE

*God of peace and gentleness
we remember with deep sorrow
the fault, fear, and failure
that repeatedly leads to the forming of enemies,
the escalation of hatred
and to war.
We repent of our complicity in cycles of violence
for colluding with anger
or defaulting to patterns of hostility
As we remember those who have
suffered because of our forgetfulness
or our inhumanity one to another,
that we may also disarm our desire to overpower, capture or vanquish.
Help us to resist peacefully every form of violence
so that we can follow you
in ways of gentleness and justice,
continually resolving to form life-giving relationships,
strengthened by the forgiveness of Jesus
the fearlessness of the Spirit
the transforming love of the Creator.*

Amen

Adapted from prayers from The Methodist Church

Sunday 12 November (Remembrance Sunday):

Peaceful God,

Teach us to forsake division and violence.

Let us serve each other in peace,

And live side by side in harmony.

Monday 13 November Let us pray for all who have died in wars across the world and commit ourselves to work for justice and peace.

Tuesday 14 November Lord, we pray for tolerance of differences of every kind and an awareness of the good in all.

Wednesday 15 November We pray for interfaith initiatives around the world. May we seek out friendships with people of other faiths and learn more about other religions.

Thursday 16 November (International Day for Tolerance) Let us be inclusive and accepting of each other, whatever our differences may be

Friday 17 November We give thanks to religious studies and religious education teachers, who work to improve young people's understanding of a diverse range of religions and cultures.

Saturday 18 November Lord, help us to resist peacefully every form of violence so that we can follow you in ways of gentleness and justice. Amen

19 - 25 NOVEMBER

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Pray with USPG during this annual international campaign to combat violence against women.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign was launched in 1991 by the Centre for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL). Each year, the campaign begins on 25 November – which is International Day Against Violence Against Women – and ends on 10 December – which is International Human Rights Day.

The aims of the campaign are to raise awareness of the issues, to lobby internationally against gender-based violence, and to inspire women globally as they seek to combat violence.

Lord

Stir us with a resolve not to be silent.

To speak out against the abuse of power;
especially in our homes.

To speak up

for those who have been pushed down
in any way.

To speak to

the needs of those who are suffering
at the hands of another.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
who extended his forgiving hands to all. Amen

Prayer from Re:stored

Sunday 19 November (24th Sunday after Trinity):

**Lord Jesus, born of the blessed Virgin Mary,
pour your blessings on all women today,
especially those who face discrimination and violence.
Reveal to them their worth and dignity before you.**

Monday 20 November (Christ the King) Let us pray that girls around the world might grow up knowing that they are safe and have access to education and employment opportunities.

Tuesday 21 November We pray that this year's 16 Days campaign might make governments, churches and communities around the world take notice and support an end to gender-based violence

Wednesday 22 November Let us pray that churches around the world might become leaders in their communities for upholding the rights of women and girls.

Thursday 23 November (International Day for Tolerance) Lord, we pray that women might receive greater acknowledgement for their role in sustaining our churches and our communities. Amen

Friday 24 November Give thanks for the lives and work of women throughout the world. Pray for an end to gender inequality

Saturday 25 November (Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) Let us pray for women and girls, that they may be released from the cycle of gender-based violence.

26 NOVEMBER – 2 DECEMBER

PREVENTING MOTHER-TO-CHILD HIV TRANSMISSION

USPG has supported the Anglican Church of Tanzania (ACT) in its preventing mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT) programme since it began in 2014. The programme is now in its second three-year phase and is based at Mvumi Hospital: a mission hospital in Dodoma Rural District, central Tanzania.

Tanzania is one of the African countries most severely affected by HIV/AIDS, and the transmission of the virus from mothers to their babies during pregnancy, birth or whilst breastfeeding is by far the most common means by which children become infected. The PMTCT programme aims to help bring the number of new HIV infections among Tanzanian children down to fewer than 20,000 by 2020. Along with this, it is also committed to ensuring that 95% of pregnant women living with HIV are receiving lifelong HIV treatment.

One side effect of the programme is that the stigma that often surrounds people with HIV is going away. Men used to be reluctant to accompany their partners to HIV clinics, but now more men are accompanying their partners to reproductive and child health services.

Sunday 26 November (The Sunday Next before Advent)

**O God, who spoke through the prophets,
telling forth against the evils of society.**

**Inspire your church today to stand up, speak out
and bring in your kingdom of justice, peace and inclusion.**

Monday 27 November We pray for the Anglican Church of Tanzania, for all the community programmes they are supporting including the PMTCT programme.

Tuesday 28 November Let us pray for all those living with HIV and AIDS. May they be enabled to live a full life, free from fear safe within the communities they live.

Wednesday 29 November Let us pray for those researching the spread of infectious diseases. May their learning and discovery bear fruit for the good of all.

Thursday 30 November Let us pray for a greater awareness of the prejudices we carry. May we be open to one another and change our way of seeing

Friday 1 December (World AIDS Day) Let us pray for those who live with stigma and discrimination. May we work to raise awareness of prejudice and be bold in our challenge of discrimination.

Saturday 2 December As we prepare for advent Loving Lord, let us be reminded that you are a light to the world.



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USPG

5 Trinity Street
London
SE1 1DB

020 7921 2200

info@uspg.org.uk

www.uspg.org.uk/pray

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