

Cycle of Prayer

01 - 31 May 2026



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

01 May 2026

Thurstaston Dawpool C of E School

Anglican Communion: Wusasa, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

02 May 2026

Upton (Overchurch), St Mary

Clergy: Revd Alec Ham, Revd Dr Al Rodgers

Lay Workers: Mrs Rhonda Anson, Mrs Alison Collins, Mr Kenneth London, Mr Graham Morris, Dr Dave Wood

Anglican Communion: Wyoming, The Episcopal Church

03 May 2026

Following the way maker

'And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also.'

John 14: 3

In rambling clubs it is often the case that one of the members is responsible for organising the next walk. And if they have experience they will make sure that they do the walk themselves in advance: it is not enough merely to look at a map or a guide book, they need to check it in practice, to see the hidden obstacles or the unexpected pleasures. Jesus Christ is this reliable guide on the journey Christians make to the Father. He has gone ahead and now comes to be with us as we follow after. But we can say even more than this: he has also created the path, forging a way where there was before no way through, no access. The path may seem to us difficult, maybe even fear-filled, but our reading and prayer today reassure us that it is a sure way, the way of Christ. Let us pray that we would follow it with confidence and joy.

Almighty God

who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ

have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:

grant that, as by your grace going before us

you put into our minds good desires

so by your continual help

we may bring them to good effect;

through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever,

Amen

Anglican Communion: The Church of North India (United)

04 May 2026

West Kirby, St Andrew

Clergy: Revd Brian Bell

Lay Worker: Mr Ken Jones

Anglican Communion: Yambio, Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

05 May 2026

West Kirby, St Bridget

Clergy: Revd Ruth Abbott, Revd Alex Williams

Lay Workers: Mr Graham Crowder, Mr Brian Dodd, Mr John Smith

Anglican Communion: Yangon, The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma)

06 May 2026

West Kirby, St Bridget's C of E School

Anglican Communion: Yei, Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

07 May 2026

Poulton Lancelyn, Holy Trinity

Clergy: Revd Paul Lewis, Revd Roger Wiles

Lay Worker: Mr Alan Jones

Please pray for the PCC and Paul Lewis our associate Minister as they guide us through the time of vacancy. Pray for wisdom and sensitivity. Pray the church family remains united through this time. Pray the Lord will raise the right incumbent in good time to lead the church family into its next phase.

Anglican Communion: Yeri, Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

08 May 2026

Alsager with Hassall Green, St Mary Magdalene

Clergy: Revd Graham Joyce and Revd John Gleaves

Lay Workers: Mrs Anne Joyce, Mrs Gill Marren

Please pray for us we look forward to the arrival our new vicar, the Rev'd Joe Smith. Pray that he, and his family, will soon feel a part of the community and together we will seek to fulfil our vision for the church 'to become a spiritual home for the whole community, where all can encounter Jesus' love for them'. Give thanks for all who work to make St Mary's a place of welcome and acceptance, and to raise our profile as a member of Inclusive Church. Pray especially as we reach out to work with families, that we will see them grow in faith, share with us in worship, and come to join in our church fellowship.

Anglican Communion: Yewa, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

09 May 2026

Alsager, Christ Church

Clergy: Revd Daran Ward

Lay Workers: Mr Keith Davies, Mr Dave Fidal, Mr Andrew Warren

Anglican Communion: Yirol, Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

10 May 2026

Inhabited by Christ

'I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever.'

John 14:16

On the evening before the crucifixion, Jesus prepared his followers for loss and separation. He does so with this extraordinary promise, of another advocate. Another, because this coming advocate, or comforter, will be like the first, Jesus himself. We know that this is what he has in mind because he says a little later 'I will bto leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.' The Holy Spirit who comes is the spirit of Jesus. Sometimes we may regret the absence of the physical Jesus, thinking that it would have been so much easier to follow him in the days of the first disciples. But this promise puts us straight: those who follow Jesus today have an even greater privilege and help – Jesus himself in us, not just alongside. The power, love and wisdom of Christ is with us and at work in us, day by day.

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Anglican Communion: The Church of Pakistan (United)

11 May 2026

Astbury, St Mary and All Saints

Clergy: Revd Heather Carter, Revd Steph Morris

Lay Worker: Mr Andrew Bailey

Please pray for St Mary's Church facing difficult decisions in a financially difficult time. Please also pray for our team Revd's Heather and Steph and Lay Readers Bev, Andrew and Denise. Please pray for David who has finished his OWL course.

Anglican Communion: Yokohama, The Nippon Sei Ko Kai

12 May 2026

Astbury St Mary's C of E School

Please pray for the Y6 children as they sit their SATs from 11th – 14th May. Also pray for the school as we take a leading role in the village May Day celebrations on Saturday 16th May.

Anglican Communion: Yola, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

13 May 2026

Barthomley, St Bertoline and All Saints Memorial Church

Clergy: Revd Peter Ennion

Anglican Communion: York, The Church of England

14 May 2026

Brereton, St Oswald

Clergy: Revd Sandi Fisher

Lay Worker: Miss Sue Ball

Anglican Communion: New York, The Episcopal Church

15 May 2026

Brereton C of E School

Anglican Communion: Western New York, The Episcopal Church

16 May 2026

Holmes Chapel, St Luke

Clergy: Revd Canon Rob McLaren

Anglican Communion: Ysabel, The Anglican Church of Melanesia

17 May 2026

Thy Kingdom Come – Listening to the Spirit

Then Eli realised that the Lord was calling the boy. 9 So Eli told Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.'

1 Samuel 3: 8 – 9

Where do you find you pray best? Is it when you're in church, or when you're out walking in nature, or perhaps when you're at home, in bed, in perfect silence? We all have our ways of tuning in to that radio frequency that works for us, and allows us to hear God's word. For me, it's a place in my house where I go every morning to pray, to study the Bible, say Morning Prayer, or just be still. But more than that, it's all about rhythm – having a regular routine that gives God space and time to speak, and my soul the chance to listen. For Samuel, it seems he needed to be lying down, perhaps it needed to be night, and – unsurprisingly – being in the Holy of Holies, where the Ark of the Covenant stood, it worked quite well too. But when Samuel heard the voice of the Spirit, he didn't understand what was happening, or why he was responding in the wrong way – it was as if he was using a walkie-talkie that received and transmitted on different frequencies – and he might have felt like the victim of a practical joke. But he received some important advice. Eli doesn't come out particularly well in this book of the Bible, but in this story he plays an invaluable role. He taught Samuel how to listen to the Spirit: to lie back down, in his original place – tuning in to the right radio frequency – and to respond in the right way. In effect, he helped him realise how to pray. I wonder, if our friends and family were to hear a voice as Samuel did, would they know who or what it was, or how to respond to it? Because God may be calling out to them today – in fact, I'm sure he is – and it is for us to play the role of Eli.

And so let us pray that we might help our friends and family to hear that call for what it is, and encourage them to listen to it – because, like Samuel, listening to it will change their lives.

Rt Revd Sarah Mullaly, Thy Kingdom Come 2026

O God the king of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven;
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our
Saviour Christ has gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea

18 May 2026

Congleton, St James

Anglican Communion: Yukon, The Anglican Church of Canada

19 May 2026

Congleton, St Stephen, St Peter, Holy Trinity and St John the Evangelist

Clergy: Revd Ian Enticott

Lay Workers: EUR ING Chris Downes-Ward, Dr Mike Hutchison, Mr Geoff Scott, Miss Lesley Smith, Mrs Eileen Walker

Anglican Communion: Zaki-Biam, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

20 May 2026

Mossley C of E School

Anglican Communion: Zambezia, Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola

21 May 2026

Eaton with Hulme Walfield, Christ Church and St Michael's

Clergy: Revd Jim Cartlidge

Lay Workers: Mr Howard Lawton, Mr Douglas Wisener

Anglican Communion: Central Zambia, The Church of the Province of Central Africa

22 May 2026

Elworth, St Peter and The Church on Ettiley Heath

Clergy: Revd Harry Frost, Revd Anthony Rigby

Lay Workers: Mr Steven Coppenhall, Mr Paul Sawides, Mrs Michelle Walker

Anglican Communion: Eastern Zambia, The Church of the Province of Central Africa

23 May 2026

Elworth C of E School

Anglican Communion: Northern Zambia, The Church of the Province of Central Africa

24 May 2026

The Spirit of promise

'When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them.' Acts 2: 1 – 4

'Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire and lighten with celestial fire...' This ancient hymn was sung at the coronation of King Charles III, just before he was anointed with oil and with the Holy Spirit. Originally in Latin, it was sung in the native languages of the United Kingdom (English, Welsh, Scots Gaelic and Irish), harking back to the many languages spoken by the Apostles that first Pentecost – and it called for a whole new Pentecost today. In fact, the hymn has been sung at every British coronation since 1625, because it has been recognised that a monarch cannot bear the weight of their calling alone – they need the strength that can come only from the Spirit of power. And we all need that help too for the tasks that are set before us – not least to share the love of God with our friends and family. That is what we have been praying for these past eleven days – that others would encounter God, and do so through us. Through our confidence in starting conversations, even when we feel unready. Through our humility, serving them with a servant's heart. Through our comfort when they find themselves in darkness, or alone. Through our grace, committing ourselves to their wellbeing, even when it might be difficult. Through our guidance, helping them to hear and

listen to God's call. And above all through our action, responding to the Spirit's whisper and sharing God's love with our friends and family ourselves. If we do all that we have prayed, they will not only encounter God through us. We ourselves will encounter God more fully, and be transformed by His Spirit into people of grace, humility, comfort, listening, confidence and love – into people that reflect, ever more clearly, the true image of God. And so let us pray that, like that very first Pentecost, we may be transformed by the Holy Spirit, and enabled to become ambassadors for Christ, sharing the love of God with others.

Rt Revd Sarah Mullaly, Thy Kingdom Come 2026

Holy Spirit sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

Anglican Communion: The Episcopal Church in the Philippines

25 May 2026

Goostrey, St Luke

Clergy: Revd Canon Christine Broad

Please pray for our growing work with children and for our building project. We give thanks that our family services are growing in number and pray that more children and families from the village will come to know and love the Lord Jesus, and we pray for our building project, for diocesan permission to install an indoor accessible toilet and hot and cold water supply in church and for the resources to do so for the good of mission and service to our local community in this place.

Anglican Communion: Zanzibar, The Anglican Church of Tanzania

26 May 2026

Church Lawton, All Saints

Clergy: Revd Sr Heather Kemball

Lay Workers: Ms Bev Boulton, Mr Margaret Cruyton,

Please pray for us to keep finding new ways to share the love of Jesus with our community and a way forward with our building project to instal an internal loo in church.

Anglican Communion: Zaria, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

27 May 2026

Odd Rode, All Saints, Little Moreton Hall Chapel, The Good Shepherd and St Luke

Clergy: Revd Philip Atkinson

Anglican Communion: Central Zimbabwe, The Church of the Province of Central Africa

28 May 2026

Woodcock's Well C of E School

Anglican Communion: Ziwa Rukwa, The Anglican Church of Tanzania

29 May 2026

Sandbach, St Mary and St John

Clergy: Revd Bee Boyde, Revd Rachel Pendleton

Lay Workers: Mrs Joan Plowman, Mr Alan Warburton

Anglican Communion: Zonkwa, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

30 May 2026

Sandbach Heath St John's C of E School

Anglican Communion: Zululand, The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

31 May 2026

The protection of the Trinity

'When they saw him they worshipped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.'

Mathew 28: 17-18

In troubled times Christians are encouraged to seek protection and strength in God. St Patrick did so in this prayer, sometimes referred to as St Patrick's Breastplate:

I bind unto myself today
the strong name of the Trinity...
I bind unto myself today
the power of God to hold and lead,
his eye to watch, his might to stay,
his ear to hearken to my need;
the wisdom of my God to teach,
his hand to guide, his shield to ward,
the word of God to give me speech,
his heavenly host to be my guard.

In the mystery, love and depth of the Trinity we find confidence that God is able to sustain us and to enable us to live for him.

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity
and in the power of the diving majesty to worship the Unity:
keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities:
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Anglican Communion: Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda