

# All Saints Alive

## PASTORAL LETTER

*From the Archbishops of Canterbury & York*



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

### Thy Kingdom Come 25th May – 4th June 2017

**Joining with the family of God the Father to pray 'Come Holy Spirit', that we may be effective witnesses to Jesus Christ.**

*"May they be one... that the world might believe." (John 17, 21)*



We are writing in the hope that you will share with us in prayer between Ascension Day and Pentecost 2017 for the witness of Christians in this country. The aim is simple and threefold:

- **To join in prayer with the whole family of God the Father**
- **To pray for the empowering of God the Holy Spirit**

- **That we may be effective witnesses to God the Son, Jesus Christ.**

We show our faith and trust in God in prayer. It is in prayer that God takes hold of our lives and works through us in ways we can barely imagine possible.

Our praying is particularly transformative when it is done in the company of others. Jesus prayed at the Last Supper that we, those who follow him, might 'be one that the world might believe.' There is an invitation then, to make a lasting difference in our nation and in our world, by responding to his call to find a deep unity of purpose in prayer.

There is a remarkable and beautiful desire across denominations and countries to share in this great work of prayer. The Presidents of Churches Together in England are jointly supporting this initiative. The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales has committed to playing a full part and the Free Churches Group is actively encouraging all its member churches to get involved and the Methodist Church and the Baptist Union are promoting the initiative among their people.

A large number of the Pentecostal churches and new churches will be participating and several of the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox churches in the UK have signalled their support.

Provinces across the Anglican Communion have been invited to join in this great work of prayer and the World Methodist Council is encouraging all Methodists to warmly receive and actively participate in it. We also hope there will be a 'Beacon Event' in many of the capital cities in Europe.

At the heart of 'Thy Kingdom Come' is the commitment to corporate and individual prayer; in local churches, chaplaincies, missional and religious communities, fresh expressions of Church, schools and retreat houses. As we utter the words that Jesus himself put on our lips, we pray 'Thy Kingdom Come' because we long for God's Kingdom to come on earth as in heaven. In the Kingdom of God the hungry are fed, the poor hear good news and the oppressed find justice.

In that Kingdom the broken are made whole, the sick are healed and the sinner is set free. In that Kingdom all can know right relationship with the Father, through Jesus, the Son, and so find the goal and purpose of their lives. In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities.

**Once again we invite you to share with us in this great, global movement so that all may come to know Christ.**

Yours  
+Justin Cantuar +Sentamu Eboracensis

*From the Parish:* We included information about this last month (see <http://www.allsaintshertford.org/2017/apr17tkc.pdf>), and would particularly refer you to the Thy Kingdom Come website ([www.thykingdom.co.uk](http://www.thykingdom.co.uk)) which has a helpful video online at (<https://vimeo.com/183026876>), an opportunity to pledge to pray and a great deal of other helpful and encouraging information.

We will publicise local involvement on our Newsletters in the coming weeks. Janet Bird has offered to take the lead in organising the prayers, and will be glad to know if you are sharing in the prayers.

## Prayer

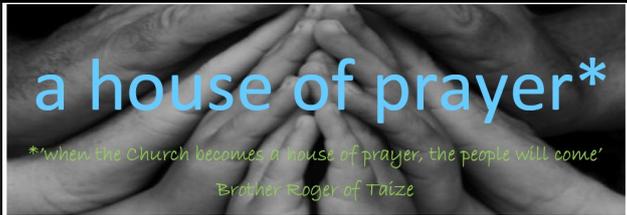
Brother Roger of Taize once said 'When the Church becomes a house of prayer, the people will come' I feel strongly that God is asking us as a church to make prayer a priority and out of this will come clarity about how we move forward into growth.

Any future activity should be born out of prayer. We are therefore planning four days of teaching on prayer called 'A House of Prayer'.

Beginning on Monday 22nd May at 8pm in St Andrew's the four days will culminate in our Team Ascension Day service on Thursday 25th. During these times we will explore different ways of praying from our rich Christian tradition and hear testimonies from different people from different walks of life about how they pray. Our hope is that these evenings will inspire us and take something of the guilt or drudgery out of praying. Prayer is the oxygen of the Church, without it we die. I would therefore encourage everyone in the congregation in the strongest possible terms to make this a priority.

During these evenings, we will be thinking about four areas in which we as a church can make a difference in the world - healing/wholeness, justice, reconciliation and beauty.

Love, Jo



**a house of prayer\***

*\*When the Church becomes a house of prayer, the people will come'  
Brother Roger of Taize*

**is prayer a struggle?**

**do you feel guilty that you don't pray enough  
or bored when you do?**

**prayer can change the world  
...by first changing us**

**it is the oxygen of the Church**

**3 nights**

**of teaching and inspiration  
followed by a Taize Style service on  
Ascension Day**

**Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> – Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> May**

**St Andrew's Church 8-9.15pm**

**please make this a priority**