



Thy Kingdom Come - A Call to Prayer

Between 25th May and 4th June, communities and churches around the world are gathering together to pray that their friends, families and neighbours come to know Jesus Christ. What started out as an invitation from the Archbishops' of Canterbury and York in 2016 to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

Prayer events of all shapes and sizes will take place across the 10 days, including 24-7 prayer rooms, prayer days, prayer walks and half nights of prayer. Cathedrals, churches

and other venues will host Beacon Events, gathering people across towns and cities to worship and to pray for the empowering of the Holy Spirit for effective witness.

We hope that churches, families and individuals will take part.

To find a Prayer, Beacon or Cathedral event near you and download resources for churches, individuals and families:

<http://bit.ly/pledge2pray>

Time to celebrate vocations

With Vocations Sunday on May 7th this is a great opportunity to celebrate lay and ordained vocations in your community. Ministry Division has prepared a set of resources to support parishes taking part in Vocations Sunday and individual stories are being

shared via social media. We are encouraging as many people as possible to tell us their own testimonies to show the impact that Christians can make in the world.

<http://bit.ly/vocationresources>

<http://bit.ly/peoplefree>

Be part of Dying Matters Awareness Week

Every year the Dying Matters coalition holds an Awareness Week; in 2017 it's 8-14 May. There will be a public conversation about coping with dying, death and bereavement. It's a great opportunity for the church to be part of that conversation, share our experiences and the Easter message of Christian hope. Find out more here: <http://bit.ly/dyingaware>

Taking Funerals Seriously 2: Fresh Perspectives, the Church of England's bi-annual conference around funeral ministry returns

in June 2017, with a wider look at death, grief and funerals, and fresh perspectives on cultural change around funerals, including trends from other countries which are finding their way to the UK. The conference includes a wide range of thought-provoking workshops and plenary sessions, given by national and international speakers. Also included is a special visit to the National Funeral Exhibition, the funeral industry's showcase event. More details here: <http://bit.ly/funeralsshowcase>

New Baptism resources

Three new resources to support parishes in welcoming children and their families for Baptism have been published by CHP. They have been developed in collaboration with the Archbishops' Council's Life Events team and the Liturgical Commission.

Two new service cards for Holy Baptism

It's important to help guests at a baptism feel welcome and at ease, and providing an easy-to-follow service is part of that. The two new Service Cards offer the text of the baptism service for use within or outside of Holy Communion, featuring the Additional Baptism Texts in Accessible Language. Their bright, full-colour design matches the rest of the Christenings materials, designed to be engaging and accessible to those less familiar with church. The three panel fold-out format ensures it is slim enough to fit neatly

onto a pew shelf and is made with a heavier weighted card to help it last.

A new Baptism certificate

Parents expect and like to receive a commemorative certificate of baptism which they can keep as the child grows up. This new design continues with the light, water and journey themes of all the other Christenings materials produced by the Life Events team. It includes space to write in all the important details: the child's name, date of birth, date of baptism, the names of parents and the godparents. And for as long as they have the certificate, children and parents will be reminded to pray with a simple prayer on the reverse of the certificate.

<http://bit.ly/christeningresources>

Covenant Champions

The Anglican-Methodist Covenant is seeking up to six people from the two churches to be Covenant Champions in each of nine regions for a term of up to four years.

The champions can be lay or ordained people in the Church of England or the Methodist Church, who long for both

churches to move towards fuller unity in mission, worship, and holiness.

This is an opportunity to raise the profile of the Covenant and to champion the work currently being done to enable both churches to fulfil their commitments to God and each other.

<http://bit.ly/covenantchampions>

New communications and media courses

Two new spring courses are now available, offered by Church of England communications & media training in 2017

Parish Magazines: On this fun and fast-paced course, delegates will learn the art of constructing a successful parish magazine 'in house'. Delegates will leave not only with an insight into the principles of good design and print layout, but also understanding of the importance of finding compelling stories and the tips and techniques for creating great magazine copy.

Religion for Radio: This day is aimed at would-be contributors for Thought for the Day, Something Understood, Pause for

Thought (or the similar local equivalent). As well learning from industry experts how to develop an engaging presentation style for broadcast, delegates will learn how to script theology for broadcast – how to write with style and originality; how to incorporate theology in a powerful way (without preaching) to capture the audience's imagination and provoke thought and reflection...

For further details, please visit the website, www.churchcommstraining.org or contact comms.training@churchofengland.org