

Bisop Hannington Church
Week of Prayer
30th November to 4th December 2020



Daily Prayer Guide

Monday 30th November – Ourselves

Spend some time using the simple ACTS acronym to help guide your prayers today.

A – Adoration:

Spend some time praising God for who he is. Praise him for his goodness and kindness that is showered upon us day by day through his Fatherly care.

You may wish to use the words of Psalm 145 to help you do that:

Psalm 145

A psalm of praise. Of David.

- ¹ I will exalt you, my God the King;
I will praise your name for ever and ever.
- ² Every day I will praise you
and extol your name for ever and ever.
- ³ Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.
- ⁴ One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.
- ⁵ They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.^[b]
- ⁶ They tell of the power of your awesome works—
and I will proclaim your great deeds.
- ⁷ They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.
- ⁸ The Lord is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich in love.
- ⁹ The Lord is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.
- ¹⁰ All your works praise you, Lord;
your faithful people extol you.
- ¹¹ They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might,
¹² so that all people may know of your mighty acts
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- ¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.
The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises
and faithful in all he does.^[c]
- ¹⁴ The Lord upholds all who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.
- ¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you,

and you give them their food at the proper time.

¹⁶ You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

¹⁷ The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and faithful in all he does.

¹⁸ The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

¹⁹ He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.

²⁰ The Lord watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

²¹ My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord.
Let every creature praise his holy name
for ever and ever.

C – Confession

Read through these words from the Prayer Book slowly and use it to confess our sins to God.

Almighty God,

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all people,
we acknowledge and lament our many sins
and the wickedness we have committed time after time,
by thought, word and deed against your divine majesty.
We have provoked your righteous anger
and your indignation against us.
We earnestly repent,
and are deeply sorry for these our wrongdoings;
the memory of them weighs us down,
the burden of them is too great for us to bear.
Have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father.
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that from this time forward
we may always serve and please you in newness of life,
to the honour and glory of your name;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

T – Thanksgiving

Spend some time making a list (physical or mental) of all the things we can thank God for. Include the big (e.g. our lives) to the small (e.g. clothes for the day). Thank God for those things.

S – Supplication

Finally, present your requests to God. You may have specific things to pray for in your life, but you could do worse than use some of Paul's prayers as your starting point. Here are four you may wish to use:

I. Ephesians 1:17-19a

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you spiritual wisdom and revelation in your growing knowledge of him--since the eyes of your heart have been enlightened--so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the incomparable greatness of his power toward us who believe

II. Ephesians 3:16-19

I pray that according to the wealth of his glory [the Father] may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner person, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, so that, because you have been rooted and grounded in love, you may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and thus to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

III. Philippians 1:9-11

And I pray this, that your love may abound even more and more in knowledge and every kind of insight so that you can decide what is best, and thus be sincere and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.

IV. Colossians 1:9b-12

[I ask] God to fill you with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may live worthily of the Lord and please him in all respects--bearing fruit in every good deed, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might for the display of all patience and steadfastness, joyfully giving thanks to the Father who has qualified you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light.

Tuesday 1st December – Our Church Family

There are all sorts of different things we could pray for here, and if you have particular areas of church life that are close to you, please pray for those. But to help here are a few possible suggestions:

Give Thanks for:

- That we are a family together united by the blood of Jesus.
- Despite not being able to gather physically we have still been able to hear God's word taught and gather online.
- We are a church made up of all ages and stages of life.
- The work of many to help us support and encourage one another (all involved in putting on services, small group leaders, those delivering services and news sheets, people calling each other on the phone and much more).
- The work we have been able to amongst our children and young people.
- Individuals in the church who have been a particular encouragement to you.

Pray for:

- For Clergy, Wardens and PCC as they seek under God to lead the church forward into 2021.
- All of us to be proactively seeking to encourage and spur one another on in the faith.
- Those facing a particular time of hardship and suffering to know the Lord's hand with them.
- For those struggling in lockdown with isolation, work challenges or other burdens.
- Our young families who often find it a struggle to engage with online services or other online materials.
- For our young people who find themselves in times of great uncertainty with regard to their future. And Stephen and the youth team as they seek to help them raise their gaze up to Jesus.
- For our children to be able to engage well with the online and in person teaching they are given. Catharine, Rich and others as they seek to keep this going.
- For the goals for the year to be set and useful for 2021.

Wednesday 2nd December – Our Outreach to Friends and Family

Pray for Individuals:

4 Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. **2** Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. **3** And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. **4** The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. **5** For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. **6** For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,'^[a] made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:1-6

Spend some time reading through this passage and think specifically of some friends and family who you would love to come to know Jesus.

Pray for us as a Church

Use these prayer points as a starter for our prayers for our Church's outreach:

- Thank God for those on the current Alpha course. Pray that conversations had during the sessions and with those that brought them on different occasions would be useful and that the Spirit would be working to open up their blind eyes to see Jesus as Lord and God.
- Pray for our Christmas services (Family Carols, Carol Concert, Christingle, Midnight & Christmas Day) to be chances for people to come and hear about the babe in the manger and about why Christmas is such good news.
- Pray for follow up after Christmas, pray there may be some who want to find out more in 2021.
- Pray for our plans in the whole of 2021. Pray we would be wise in seeking chances to make Christ known to the world and keeping it constantly on our agenda.
- Pray for our personal evangelism. Someone once said we cannot talk to non-Christians about Jesus if we are not talking to them in life. Pray that as members of the church we would be longing to be holding out the gospel hope in all we do.
- Pray for plans for Passion for Life 2022, a national event encouraging churches to be holding a week of mission activities in Spring 2022.

Thursday 3rd December – Our City and Country

Our City: Churches

- Thank God for the partnerships we have with Holy Cross and Goldstone. Pray especially for Dave Howarth and Simon James-Morse as they lead those churches. Pray we would seek to make Christ known through our various ministries individually and collectively.
- Thank God for partnerships with other churches in the city. Pray that Christ may be the one who is made known through all their endeavours.

Our City: Local Leaders

- Pray for those involved in local government, in particular Councillor Alan Robins (Mayor) and Councillor Dawn Barnett, Councillor Tony Janio & Councillor Nick Lewry who are the councillors who for the ward in which the church is situated.

Our City: Issues

- Pray for those in our city who are facing poverty or hardship. Pray for churches to be able to serve and love those who are amongst them.
- Pray for those in our frontline services as we face a second wave and difficult winter.

Our Country: The Church of England

- Pray for our Archbishops (Justin & Stephen), our Diocesan Bishop (Martin) and all other Bishops to herald the gospel to a country that needs it.
- Pray for churches to remain faithful to the gospel and show love to their communities in word and deed.
- Pray to the Lord for more workers for the Harvest field, pray especially for more Anglican Ordinands who hold to the faith revealed in the Scriptures.
- Pray for unity and generosity but also clarity as the church wrestles with cultural issues of the day.

Our Country: Leaders

- Pray for our Queen and Political leaders as they navigate the current Covid landscape. Pray for SAGE and other advisors as they seek the good of the whole country and try to make difficult decisions.
- Pray for negotiations with the EU with regard to Brexit. Pray for a fair deal that will enable mutual flourishing.

Our Country: Issues

- Pray for the many people impacted by unemployment because of the Pandemic. Pray that new job opportunities would arise.
- Pray for families who are under particular strain because of the current crisis. Pray that marriages would be strengthened and families would be safe and loving environments for children to grow up in.

Friday 4th December – Our World

Mission Partners:

You may wish to spend some time praying for our Mission Partners who are across the world:

- Katie Bennett (Spain)
- Graham & Debbie Frith (Bolivia)
- Susanna Baldwin (Ethiopia)
- Martin & Fran Russell (Italy)
- Nelson, Marcia, Camilla & Andre Salviano (Brazil)
- James & Carolynn Webb (Spain)

There may be other missionaries who you know or have contact with that you wish to pray for.

Spend some time praying for those that are seeking to take the gospel out to all parts of the world.

The Church

A step on from there spend some time praying for the Church and Christians across the world.

- Pray for Christians that are persecuted by Governments for their faith. Pray that they would be strengthened in faith and through their example Christ may be made known.
- Pray for the church in those countries, during the pandemic we have been given a small glimpse of what life is like for many Christians across the globe. Unable to meet and when they are able to meet unsure how long for. Pray that the church would be able to grow even if traditional structures (as we understand them) simply cannot happen.
- Pray for the Anglican Church Worldwide. Bishop Hannington is part of the Global Anglican Communion, pray that the church globally would stick to historic Anglicanism, which is to stick to the gospel.
- Pray for Christian boldness in taking the gospel out to those that have never heard about Jesus, whether that is in the deep dark Jungle or simply the 'dark' parts of towns and cities.

The Global Pandemic and Other Issues

- Pray for the global response to the Pandemic, pray that this jolt to life would show us all that the only firm foundation is Jesus Christ.
- Pray also that there would not be any vaccine injustice, whereby the richest countries are able to move forward and leave the others behind. Pray that any vaccine would be available to all.

- Pray for those that are the most poor and vulnerable in our world. Pray that whatever the cause (human or natural) Christians would be able to relieve suffering and point to the God who cares for all.

The Lord's Prayer

To close, read through the Lord's Prayer, as you do pause and consider what we are really praying about and what it reveals about our great God.

Then, pray it through slowly remembering that this is a prayer that has been prayed by Christian brothers and sisters throughout the whole world and through the generations.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

