



Diocese of  
Portsmouth

# Pompey Churches

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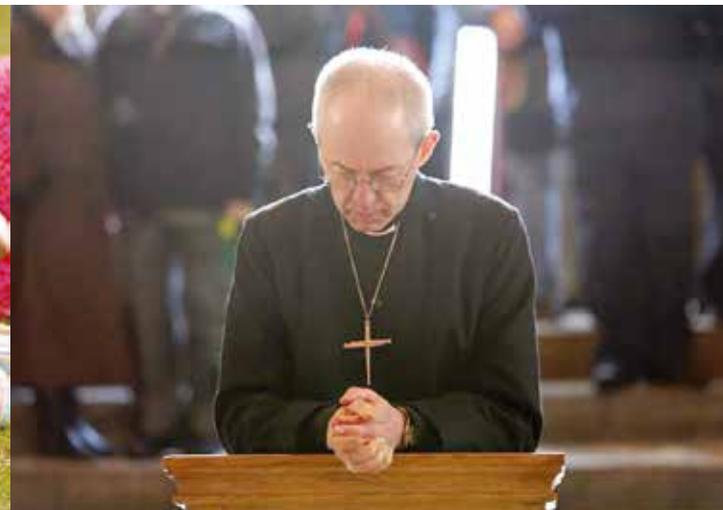


THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

NUMBER 156

Parish news from north of Petersfield to the Isle of Wight

MARCH 2017



## 'THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE'

### WE can join in a global wave of prayer between Ascension Day and Pentecost this year.

Our parishes will be inspired to join Thy Kingdom Come, a 10-day prayer movement that unites Christians around the world.

It began as an invitation from our two Archbishops last year and involved 100,000 people praying in the week leading up to Pentecost for the Spirit to help them to witness. In 2017, it aims to be a worldwide, ecumenical movement to prompt even more people to pray for others to know the love of Jesus.

Worshippers from our diocese will be inspired to pray in a variety of ways between May 25 and June 4. People are invited to pray individually and

in small groups, using formal liturgies and innovative prayer installations, at home, at work and in church.

And to inspire our parishes, we're hosting a special Thy Kingdom Come day at our cathedral, from 11am-4pm on May 20. We'll showcase some of the ways of praying suggested by the national organisers.

Clergy and lay leaders will be invited to drop in at any point during the day, to tell Bishop Christopher about their plans, pick up helpful resources and experience a range of prayer and worship.

Each hour, on the hour, we'll gather for 10 minutes or so of worship in a different style – from quiet contemplation in silence to charismatic praise led by a guitar band.

We hope to have a map of

our diocese laid out on the floor, with each parish denoted by a candle. Parishes can take the candle representing their parish and light it each time they meet for prayer during the days of Thy Kingdom Come.

Some parishes may put together a rota of intercessors to pray 24 hours a day for those 10 days. Some may organise extra prayer meetings. And others may ensure congregation members have resources to pray each day at home. Because the week leading up to Pentecost Sunday is half-term, some may also offer families the chance to pray together.

Our Canon Precentor, Canon Jo Spreadbury, said: "Many dioceses will have celebration services at the end of the 10 days, on Pentecost Sunday. We decided to do things

slightly differently because we wanted to inspire people to pray and prepare before Thy Kingdom Come even starts.

"We'll create spaces in the cathedral on May 20 for people to pray in a variety of ways. Some of those methods may be familiar, some unfamiliar. The idea is to find as many ways as possible for people to engage with God during Thy Kingdom Come.

"Your parish may have specific prayer groups or intercessors who would love to be there. But do also bring others who may be less used to praying, so they can discover something of the rich tradition we have of Christian spirituality."

This year's Thy Kingdom Come was launched by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Justin Welby, at a

Lambeth Palace reception for bishops and senior clergy.

He explained that the genesis of the idea came from an Evangelism Task Force which reported to General Synod in 2015. It said that the first priority for effective witness was to pray.

"We need to pray for the power of the Spirit so that we can witness effectively," he said. "However, the Spirit doesn't work in a franchise way, so we aren't going to tell you how to pray. You should pray in whatever way you would like to between Ascension Day and Pentecost."

Resources for Thy Kingdom Come can be downloaded from [www.thykingdom.global](http://www.thykingdom.global). More details about our diocese's event are on [www.portsmouth.anglican.org/thykingdom](http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/thykingdom)

