



Live | Pray | Serve



Resource ideas
for use on the day,
or on the days surrounding it,
at home or in church

On 8th September

- try to make some space in your day to pray, in words, in silence, in reading, in reflection, in actions, for God's guidance and grace for the parishes in our diocese. The Day of Prayer is the opportunity to explore the challenge of living in, praying for and serving God's world, thanking God for those whose faith and work have created today's Church as we pray for God's help in shaping the Church for the future.
- you might do this at home, in your church building, on a walk around the churchyard or parish or travel to another church in the deanery or diocese.

During the week

- set up one or two prayer stations at church, inside or outside, to help those who will come and pray.

On Sunday 5th

- introduce the Day of Prayer and perhaps use this or another appropriate prayer:

Lord,

you give us life and call us to live in, pray for and serve your world.

We give you thanks for all we have received from those who have lived before us in faith. We ask for your help to build on their work, with vision, energy and trust in your guidance and care, as we shape for the future the life and work of your Church in this diocese.

***Open our minds and our hearts
to know your presence and power,
in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.***

Prayer resource ideas

Walk around the church, building and grounds, praying for the people of the parish and for God's work among them.

Read some scripture [*see Scripture Resources section*]. On a Post-it note write down a selected verse and leave it for others to read.

Tea/coffee and cake could be offered to people who have come to pray, if you have the facilities and people available to do it. Be aware of the need to have some spaced seating for those who are maintaining social distancing.

PCC members could write prayers before the day and leave them for visitors to read, pray and take away.

Visitors could leave their written prayers to be prayed during the following Sunday's service.

Provide a basket of pebbles to create a prayer cairn, which can be added to throughout the day.

Create a blank prayer wall (with a large sheet of paper) for people to write on as they visit.

Provide tea lights for visitors to place on a candle stand or sand tray.

Whilst sitting in the church you are visiting, read a well-known or favourite worship song/hymn to yourself, saying it as if it were a prayer for that place.

Pray the Lord's Prayer in your favourite version. Reflect on the meaning of each line. Commit to living the line you find hardest.

You are one of 2.1 billion Christians, worldwide, united by Baptism.

Reflect on this as you walk around the building or churchyard.

Pray for local schools: children and parents, teachers and support staff.

Scripture resources

These Bible passages were suggested by Diocesan Synod members, at their July 2021 meeting, to help with reflection and prayer about Live | Pray | Serve, with the following broad themes:

Faith and Trust

Matthew 14:22-33 Jesus walking on the water
Jeremiah 17:7-8 ‘a tree planted by water’

Unity

Psalms 133:1 living together in unity.
Ephesians 4 ‘the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace’

Our attitudes

Philippians 2:4-5 the mind of Christ
Acts 10:9-15 valuing diversity

The call to mission

Matthew 28:19-20 ‘Go and make disciples’
Luke 9:2-3 ‘Take nothing for your journey’

From the Parables

Luke 14. 28-30 the man who built a tower
John 15. 1-8 the vine and its branches

After the Day of Prayer

- Collate any photos taken during the day to share with other people, perhaps in your parish magazine, church website or diocesan mailings. *(Please check whether people are willing to let you share their photo.)*

*with many thanks for the prayer ideas
to Janet Clarke,
Bishops Waltham Deanery's Sub-warden of licensed lay ministers.*

courageous | collaborative | generous | resourceful | pioneering