

MARCH PRAYER

Bishop Rose has said that the subject of PRAYER is one of her priorities and has issued a 'call to prayer' that is about learning to listen to God and then discerning the way forward in the work with our communities. You can hear what she has to say with the following link;

www.youtube.com/watch?v=txMn2eSipNo

The diocese provides resources to parishes through the Changing Lives Prayer Network that is coordinated by Lyndall Bywater. I had the privilege of hearing her speak passionately on the subject of 'listening prayer' at a recent deanery meeting.

At that meeting she highlighted certain resources that are available from her, and she gave dates of events taking place that some may find helpful;

- **PRAYER CARDS**
These are seasonal cards sent to each parish that individuals can take away and use as an aid to prayer. A 'Lent to Easter' card is now available that focuses on the theme of 'wilderness' – please take one from the back of church.
- **CALENDAR OF PRAYER**
This is produced monthly and circulated to all churches in the diocese as a way of praying for each other, as churches, on a regular basis. An up to date copy can be found in the prayer space (by the candle stand) for all to use.
- **LISTENING ON THE WAY – NOVENA POCKET PRAYERS**
Nine Days of Prayer from 22nd to 30th May (Novena), leading up to Pentecost (Whitsun). These beautifully illustrated booklets, as an aid to prayer, will be available nearer the time.
- **DIOCESAN DAY OF PRAYER & PILGRIMAGE**, Saturday 30th May
Join our archdeacons on a one-day pilgrimage to Canterbury as part of the Novena.
- **CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL BEACON EVENT**, Saturday 30th May 6-7.15pm
Join Bishop Rose at this special Pentecost eve service. Free tickets can be obtained from:
www.canterburydiocese.org.uk/prayerandpilgrimagesources

Later in the year Bishop Rose will visit Maidstone Deanery for an overview of the things that go on here. She intends to return next year, for a week, so that she can take a more in-depth look at the work of the churches – I am sure that she will take the opportunity to talk about the importance of prayer as the foundation of all that we do.

As Bishop Rose prays for the work of the diocese, and the parishes, it is important that we pray for her and the immense responsibility, and workload, that she carries as she seeks to inspire us all for the opportunities, and the challenges, in the years to come.

Rev Chris

Let us be keen to join in with what God is doing. We pray that we might be open to joyfully following Him day by day. His promises are sufficient for our needs, He will go before and give us the Grace and strength to follow.

'Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland'. Isaiah 43: 18-19

We pray for all those in our community who are in the wasteland, we ask that they might see the way forward and enter into the oasis that is life with Jesus.

May we also be aware of those within our fellowship who are struggling, who feel lost, outside of God's love. Lift them to God in the certain knowledge that He understands our struggles and has provided the way out. Help us to show His amazing love and to share the truth that God never leaves us.

'We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.' 2Cor.4:18

Let's wholeheartedly thank the Lord for the amazing blessings we have seen over the last months & years and never forget that He is the source of them all. May we continue to praise Him at all times & in all situations.

Please don't forget to pray for all those in desperate trouble because of weather, war, disease, famine. We are SO blessed here in Allington, may we never forget that.

Amen