

PRAY WITH THE WORLD CHURCH

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS FROM
THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

27 November 2022 – 4 March 2023

USPG[†] PARTNERS IN
GLOBAL MISSION

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INTRODUCTION

Light in the darkness is a theme that threads its way through the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, to the feast of Candlemas. Then, as we turn towards Lent and are plunged into our own darkness on Ash Wednesday, the light beckons once more and we are reminded that the darkness of sin and death will never overcome the light. Resurrection has the last word.

Like flickering candles, our daily prayers from around the Anglican Communion illuminate the stories of our brothers and sisters worldwide, inviting us to hold the Christ light for each other as we share our pain and sorrow, joys and triumphs. Our compassion and generosity are needed more than ever as the plight of refugees, the marginalised and oppressed come into ever sharper focus, in a world threatened by pandemic, climate disaster, economic stability, war and conflict.

As darkness threatens, USPG's passion to 'Do Good, Seek Justice', the theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, remains undimmed. Whether supporting our partner churches in their work amongst refugees in Finland, the indigenous people of the Philippines, victims of human trafficking in North India and those stigmatised by HIV in Zimbabwe, or honestly confronting our past on Holocaust Memorial Day and Bray Day, we seek to make Christ manifest. Please join with us and our partner churches, that through our lives and by our prayers, Christ's light shines in the dark and his world is made anew.

27 NOVEMBER – 3 DECEMBER

WORLD AIDS DAY 2022

A report from the Anglican Church in Zimbabwe

The Anglican Church in Zimbabwe joined in World AIDS Day 2021, embracing its theme ‘End Pandemics, End Inequalities, End AIDS’ and continues to confront the inequalities brought about by HIV-related stigma and discrimination. By empowering those living with HIV (PLHIV) to improve their household incomes and nutrition, thereby boosting adherence to antiretroviral therapy (ART), it further challenges the inequalities that drive the HIV and AIDS epidemic.

Preaching the gospel of love and inclusivity, the Church took the opportunity at the World AIDS Day commemoration to share with the public, government officials and stakeholders its efforts to address inequalities brought about by stigma and discrimination. It continues to play a significant role in the response to HIV and to the Covid-19 pandemic which disrupted gains made through its HIV programme. Despite the challenges, the programme has seen positive results. More people in the church are opening-up about their HIV status, the income generating projects are empowering those living with HIV as well as improving their nutrition, and the dedication of Church leaders is significantly contributing to the HIV response. With a recent upsurge of young people abusing drugs in the country and being more at risk of HIV infection, the Church is being sought to lead and give direction.

Sunday 27 November (The First Sunday of Advent)

**O Come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

(based on the ancient Advent Antiphons)

Monday 28 November Let us pray for all those living with HIV and AIDS. May they be enabled to live a full life, free from fear.

Tuesday 29 November Let us pray for those researching into the spread of infectious diseases. May their learning and discovery bear fruit for the good of all.

Wednesday 30 November Let us pray for a greater awareness of the prejudices we carry. May we be open to one another and change our way of seeing.

Thursday 1 December (World AIDS Day) Let us pray for those who live with stigma and discrimination. May we work to raise awareness of prejudice and be bold in our challenge of discrimination.

Friday 2 December Let us pray for church leaders, lay and ordained. May they preach a gospel of love and inclusivity.

Saturday 3 December Let us give thanks for the Church in Zimbabwe. May its work to address inequality and prejudice strengthen the communities it serves.

4 - 10 DECEMBER

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

An excerpt from the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (Philippine Independent Church) human rights report by USPG

Human rights in the Philippines have been under threat for years. Perhaps the most appalling example of the stripping away of human rights is the regime of President Ferdinand Marcos, which governed from 1965 until 1986. Marcos used martial law to increase the detention, torture and murder of students, journalists, activists and religious leaders who spoke out against the government. Over 3,000 people were killed, 35,000 tortured and 70,000 arrested by the Marcos regime.

The legacy of terror continued during the presidencies of Arroyo and Aquino before Duterte made things even worse. Ferdinand Marcos Jr has just been elected President of the Philippines and many are scared his regime will match the human rights record of his father.

The Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI) is an independent nationalist church, formed in 1902. The IFI self-identifies as a church 'for God and for country', where their interpretation of country centres on the people of the Philippines, the poor and marginalised in particular. Consequently, the IFI have worked to protect indigenous people from the persecution perpetrated by successive governments.

To read more about the IFI's human rights activism and what the international community can do to help the Philippines, visit:

www.uspg.org.uk/human-rights-in-the-philippines.php

Sunday 4 December (The Second Sunday of Advent)

**O come, Prince of Peace,
and hear the voice of the oppressed.**

**Pull down the mighty,
exalt the meek
and bind up the broken hearted.**

Monday 5 December Let us pray for the peoples of the Philippines. May the oppressed know solidarity with one another, be supported to understand their rights and face the future with courage.

Tuesday 6 December Let us pray for those who live with loss and trauma. May their grief be met with compassion and understanding and their injuries with help and healing.

Wednesday 7 December Let us pray for all who live in fear of detention and torture. May the new regime of Ferdinand Marcos Jr listen to past wrongs, observe human rights and govern peaceably.

Thursday 8 December Let us pray for people and organisations who work to confront the abuse of human rights. May they dare to protest and may we join in.

Friday 9 December Let us pray for the indigenous people of the Philippines. May their voice be heard, their rights safeguarded and their land protected.

Saturday 10 December Let us give thanks for the courage and commitment of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente in its challenge of oppression. May we also pursue justice for the poor and marginalised.

11-17 DECEMBER

WALKING TOGETHER

Contributed by Nathan Olsen

The Rt Rev'd Maria Grace Tazu Sasamori became Bishop of Hokkaido in Japan in April 2022. Here she shares her reflections on this year's Lambeth Conference with Archbishop Justin Welby.

'I was very nervous about coming to the Lambeth Conference; as the conference is conducted in English, I was very nervous about keeping up with the conversations that were happening all of the time.

Through the time I spent at the Lambeth Conference, I have really understood the diversity and breadth of the Anglican Communion. This diversity is one that at times involves pain and suffering. I have come to appreciate the value of this diversity and the way that bishops bring strength from their positions in their own dioceses and provinces to share the message of Christ. I hope that I can do this going forward.

All of the stories that I have heard and that we have shared over the course of the Lambeth Conference have had a great impact on me. When I return to Japan, I hope that I can take the following message: that even though we may have different stories and are part of different cultures, we can continue to work and walk together.'

Sunday 11 December

(The Fourth Sunday of Advent, International Migrants Day)

**Prepare our hearts to receive you, O Lord,
and open our hearts to receive one another.**

Monday 12 December Let us pray for the Church in Japan, its leaders and its people. May we seek to learn about its communities and share its story.

Tuesday 13 December Let us pray for the worldwide Church, for different Churches and denominations. May we be open to receive the riches from each other's traditions.

Wednesday 14 December Let us pray for all who gathered at this year's Lambeth Conference. May they continue to reflect, absorb and learn from all they discovered about themselves and each other.

Thursday 15 December Let us pray for bishops in their role as leaders and pastors. May they be sensitive to their flock and judicious in their judgement.

Friday 16 December Let us pray for our brothers and sisters in the Anglican Communion. May we put aside our prejudices and open our hearts to understand our differences.

Saturday 17 December Let us give thanks for the diversity of humanity. May we be mindful of any who are othered and always seek to include.

18 – 24 DECEMBER

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

A reflection on International Migrants Day by Bishop Antonio Ablon, Coordinator of the Filipino Chaplaincy in Europe, part of the Philippine Independent Church

Before the pandemic, thousands of people flew every day to seek jobs abroad. Now that Covid regulations are easing, similar numbers of job seekers are on the move again. They become migrants and workers in other nations because of poverty and war back home. However, many suffer racial discrimination in their host countries, struggling to live on low salaries and inadequate benefits and finding it difficult to access healthcare services, including mental health provision. The many problems they face have been exacerbated by the pandemic and the recent war in Ukraine. This situation challenges the churches to live out the Gospel mandate to love our neighbour by helping them ‘...just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me’. (Matthew 25:40)

Pastorally, the churches have welcomed strangers and migrants, especially those travelling without essential legal documents, offering them sanctuary, providing them with food and medicine, and even necessary documentation.

Prophetically, the churches have become the voice of the migrants, demanding that governments and institutions improve their rights and welfare provision, and that the laws of the land shall be for the good of the natives and migrants alike as there is only one human race. (cf. Exodus 12:49 and Leviticus 24:22)

Sunday 18 December,
(The Fourth Sunday of Advent, International Migrants Day)

Child in a manger,
may we greet the uprooted
and those with nowhere to lay their head
with the same eagerness with which we greet you.

Monday 19 December Let us pray for all who leave home in search of work and a better life. May they be met with understanding and hospitality along the way.

Tuesday 20 December Let us pray for migrants and workers struggling to find their place in the world. May governments be guided by compassion and a desire to work for justice and equity for all.

Wednesday 21 December Let us pray for churches, charities and NGOs who work with migrants. May we be generous in our giving to support their work and advocacy.

Thursday 22 December Let us pray for workers who are vulnerable and exploited. May their voice be heard, wrongs revealed and injustice righted.

Friday 23 December Let us pray for those who suffer racial discrimination in host countries. May we find constructive ways to challenge prejudice and bring positive change.

Saturday 24 December Let us give thanks for the work of the Filipino Chaplaincy amongst migrants. May their example of hosting the vulnerable and befriending the stranger inspire us to do likewise.

25 -31 DECEMBER

USPG CHRISTMAS APPEAL: JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

The Journey to Freedom campaign supports the anti-human trafficking programme of the Diocese of Durgapur in North India

This year's Christmas appeal focuses on those who have experienced the trauma of human trafficking, which is a huge problem in the regions bordering India and Bangladesh. Daily, men, children and women leave their villages, where there are not enough jobs, to cross the border in search of a better life away from rural poverty. Knowing that human traffickers lie in wait along the way, only those truly desperate to leave behind their lives at home would risk such a journey.

The life-changing 'Anti-Human Trafficking' programme run by the Diocese of Durgapur in North India organises rescue missions for those who go missing. They also conduct awareness-raising campaigns to spread information about human trafficking and to show local people how to protect themselves and others from getting trapped.

Thanks to your generosity, this programme can continue running. Your donations will help to build a network with local government and law officials, and fund workshops and camps with teaching from human trafficking experts.

Please join the Diocese of Durgapur in supporting survivors of human trafficking. Donate to the Journey to Freedom campaign today at www.uspg.org.uk/christmas

Sunday 25 December (Christmas Day)

**O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.**

(Phillips Brooks 1835-1893)

Monday 26 December (St Stephen) Let us pray for victims of human trafficking. May they hold on to a sense of self and be helped to find a way to safety and freedom.

Tuesday 27 December (St John the Evangelist) Let us pray for men, women and children who are driven by poverty to leave home and seek work. May they be kept safe from harm along the way.

Wednesday 28 December (Holy Innocents Day) Let us pray for children who are trafficked and exploited. May we be enraged by injustice and seek to protect the vulnerable.

Thursday 29 December Let us pray for human traffickers and all who exploit others for their own gain. May they be brought to justice, have a change of heart and find a righteous path.

Friday 30 December Let us pray for those involved in rescue missions to find the missing. May they be sustained by courage and resolve to restore freedom to those captured and detained.

Saturday 31 December Let us give thanks for the 'Anti-Human Trafficking' programme run by the Diocese of Durgapur. May we give generously to the Journey to Freedom campaign and make a difference.

1-7 JANUARY

REFUGEE RESPONSE IN FINLAND

The Revd Tuomas Mäkipää, Chaplain at St Nicholas' Anglican Church in Helsinki, tells how a USPG grant is helping to support Ukrainian refugees

Since the beginning of Russia's invasion of Ukraine there has been a steady flow of refugees from Ukraine to Finland. Those arriving are unable to travel by their own means and have no relatives or friends in Finland; and they are likely to have witnessed many of the horrors of war. Though the Finnish government has been very active in its response, many refugees are still without money and are living in reception centres or as guests in private homes.

St Nicholas' Chaplaincy in Helsinki monitored the situation carefully from the outset and shared information about where refugees could access help. It also supported the Vallila Centre, founded by the Ukrainian Association in Finland, by having collections to provide basic hygiene products and food for refugees.

To explore how the Chaplaincy could further help the dedicated work of the Centre, it got in touch with USPG. Knowing that the Vallila volunteers were working at full capacity, the Chaplaincy recognised the centre could do more if they had a full-time coordinator, and a generous grant from the Diocese in Europe and USPG has enabled this. The Chaplaincy is now hoping to support the Centre in their transition from 'first response unit' to a place which can offer long-term help.

Sunday 1 January

(The First Sunday of Christmas, The naming and circumcision of Jesus)

Your dawn from on high has broken upon us.

Give light to those who sit in darkness

and the shadow of death, O Lord,

and guide our feet into the way of peace.

Monday 2 January Let us pray for those fleeing Russia because of changes in their society and for fear of being conscripted. May they be upheld by courage and met with compassion.

Tuesday 3 January Let us pray for the many volunteers working with refugees. May they be sustained in their endeavours and supported when exhaustion sets in.

Wednesday 4 January Let us pray for urgent peacebuilding in the Baltic Sea region. May we stand with those who live in the fear and shadow of war.

Thursday 5 January Let us pray for all who are anxious about the future. May they be comforted by God's embracing love.

Friday 6 January (The Feast of Epiphany) Let us pray for asylum seekers, longing to live in peace without fear. May God light their path and their destination be a place of peace and security.

Saturday 7 January Let us give thanks for St Nicholas' Chaplaincy and its work with refugees. May our support for those displaced by war never grow weary.

8-14 JANUARY

EPIPHANY REFLECTION

The Rev'd Michael Sei from the Episcopal Church of Liberia offers his Epiphany reflection

In the early 1800s, missionaries from the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States risked the long voyage to Liberia to evangelise Cape Palmas, now Maryland County, and in 1836, the Episcopal Church of Liberia was established.

Today the Church is part of the Anglican Church of the Province of West Africa and seeks to make Christ manifest by focusing on intentional listening, witnessing and discipleship. Under the leadership of the Rt Rev'd Dr James Bombo Sallee, its 13th diocesan bishop, the Church provides space for worship, reconciliation, health care delivery and a rich programme of bible symposiums and formation classes, enabling awareness of, and participation in, what it means to become God's stewards.

Epiphany reminds us of our calling to make Christ manifest through God's gift of caring for the poor, hungry and abandoned, by caring for drug users and showing love, forgiveness, healing and equality to all, irrespective of our ethnic, religious, sexual and traditional beliefs. As we show Christ to be our salvation, the Church has a responsibility to speak out against corruption, bigotry, human trafficking, rape and abuse, and the marginalisation of women.

As representatives of Christ, with the Episcopal Church of Liberia, we are called to brightly bear witness to the centrality of Christ in our lives.

Sunday 8 January (The First Sunday of Epiphany, the Baptism of Christ)

**Lead us, Lord of light,
and transform the poverty of our natures
into the riches of your grace
that your love be made known.**

Monday 9 January Let us pray for those who risk life and limb to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. May we have courage and sensitivity in the sharing of our faith.

Tuesday 10 January Let us pray for our brothers and sisters in the Episcopal Church of Liberia. May we join with them in focussing on intentional listening, witnessing and discipleship.

Wednesday 11 January Let us pray for wise stewardship of our gifts. May we recognise the gifts we bear and be generous in our sharing of all that is good.

Thursday 12 January Let us pray for the work of the Church amongst the marginalised. May we join our brothers and sisters in Liberia in seeking to include those who feel abandoned.

Friday 13 January Let us pray for victims of violence and drug abuse. May they be offered help and support, and may they find healing and peace.

Saturday 14 January Let us give thanks for the Church of Liberia and its witness to God's inclusive love. May we join with them in spreading the light of Christ.

PRAY WITH THE WORLD CHURCH



Finland:
refugee
response

Ukraine:
International
migrants day

Sierra Leone:
Social justice

Tanzania: Prevention
of transmission of HIV

27 NOVEMBER 2022 – 4 MARCH 2023



Pakistan:
Christianity
in Pakistan

Myanmar: Education
programme in Myanmar

The Philippines:
Human rights in
The Philippines

North India:
Anti human
trafficking

Sri Lanka:
Economic crisis
in Sri Lanka

Zimbabwe: World AIDS day

15-21 JANUARY

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

A reflection from the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches

Do good; seek justice (Isaiah 1:17)

In the verse from Isaiah chosen for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the prophet teaches that God requires righteousness and justice from all of us, all the time and in all spheres of life. The challenges wrought by division in our world today in many ways mirror the challenges Isaiah confronted in his preaching, when he called his listeners to do good and seek justice.

Justice, righteousness and unity originate from God's profound love for each of us and are at the heart of who God is and how God expects us to be with one another. God's commitment to create a new humanity 'from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages' (Revelation 7:9) calls us to the peace and unity God has always wanted for creation.

Learning to do right requires the decision to engage in self-reflection. The Week of Prayer is the perfect time for Christians to recognize that the divisions between our churches and confessions cannot be separated from the divisions within the wider human family. Praying together for Christian unity allows us to reflect on what unites us and to commit ourselves to confront oppression and the divisions amongst humanity.

Sunday 15 January (The Second Sunday of Epiphany)

**God of light and love,
you made us one in Christ Jesus.
Give us vision, courage and joy
as we work to heal divisions
and proclaim the good news.**

Monday 16 January Let us pray to be good listeners. May we learn to pay attention and hear what is being said, and so seek to understand.

Tuesday 17 January Let us pray for honesty and integrity in our discussions around difference. May we search ourselves before judging others.

Wednesday 18 January (The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins) Let us pray for Christians worldwide, in places near and far. May we desire to learn from each other and grow in faith and understanding.

Thursday 19 January Let us pray for a healing of divisions. May we know the humility and wisdom of Christ in our search for reconciliation.

Friday 20 January Let us pray for the grace to live with difference. May we seek right relationships in our desire to do good and our search for justice.

Saturday 21 January Let us give thanks for the World Council of Churches. May our different Churches unite to confront injustice and oppression in our divided world.

22-28 JANUARY

MYANMAR EDUCATION PROGRAMME

From a report from the Church of the Province of Myanmar

The Church of the Province of Myanmar (CPM) knows that education is key to development and human flourishing, and to Christian discipleship. Throughout the pandemic and amidst Myanmar's turbulent political situation it has persevered with its educational programme to improve training of its members and the people they work amongst. By focusing its attention on targeted rural communities across eight regions, it has set out to raise the status of secular, theological and health education.

The Church's long-term goal is to equip members of the diocesan education committees with the necessary management and leadership skills, underpinned with theological learning, to lead the programme into the future. The strategic use of existing educational facilities in the target areas to train and resource volunteer teachers with the necessary skills and knowledge of good practice, is already reaping dividends.

Among the many activities the dioceses have delivered in recent months has been training on emergency preparedness, trauma healing, child protection, gender awareness and personal hygiene. It has provided teaching and study guides and facilitated motorbike repair training, as well as promoting the need to monitor and assess the effectiveness of the training it offers.

Sunday 22 January (The Third Sunday of Epiphany)

**Lord, give us minds to think
and hearts to love you,
wisdom to know you
and courage to proclaim you.**

Monday 23 January Let us pray for the peoples of Myanmar. May they know political stability and peaceable government.

Tuesday 24 January Let us pray for religious minorities persecuted for their faith. May their human rights be recognised and all forms of discrimination cease.

Wednesday 25 January (The conversion of St Paul) Let us pray for the Church in Myanmar as it seeks to witness to its faith. May her members support one another and have courage in the face of oppression.

Thursday 26 January Let us pray for educators and trainers. May they impart a joy in learning and a vision of a world where change is possible.

Friday 27 January (Holocaust Memorial Day) Let us pray for the Rohingya people, denied citizenship in Myanmar and persecuted. May we never forget the Holocaust and work ceaselessly for justice for all ethnic minorities.

Saturday 28 January Let us give thanks for the Myanmar Education Programme. May its work amongst the rural communities of its dioceses resource and empower them.

29 JANUARY – 4 FEBRUARY

OPENING OUR HEARTS

James Roberts, Christian Programme Manager at the Council of Christians and Jews, reflects on Holocaust Memorial Day and World Interfaith Harmony Week

Holocaust Memorial Day, which we commemorated on Friday, and World Interfaith Harmony Week, which begins on Wednesday, require us to open our hearts, both to the memory of the past and towards a more tolerant and loving future.

Holocaust Memorial Day is when we remember all the victims of Nazi persecution, including the six million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust, and all subsequent genocides. In order to authentically witness to the memory of the Holocaust, we need to open our hearts to the pain of the past. We need to inform ourselves of this shameful history, and to hold the memory of the victims in our minds. We may even look inwards and ask ourselves how we might do more to stand up for those who are persecuted, abused, or rejected in our world today.

To look forward towards a better future, towards a world where genocide will be no more, we must also open our hearts to the other — to our neighbours, to people who are different from us. In interfaith harmony week, we think especially of people of other faiths.

To open our hearts to the memory of the past, and to our neighbours, is to actively and prayerfully strive towards harmony between all people, so that we may grow one step closer to a world united in love.

Sunday 29 January (The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany)

**Lightness our darkness, O Lord,
and reveal the unspeakable
lest we forget the victims of our inhumanity.
Turn our hearts to repentance
and our actions to justice.**

Monday 30 January Let us pray for our Jewish brothers and sisters at this time of remembrance. May their pain and loss never be forgotten, and the Holocaust be a perpetual reminder of where prejudice and discrimination ends.

Tuesday 31 January Let us pray for the healing of relationships between Christians and Jews. May the Christian Church acknowledge its history of Jewish persecution and repent.

Wednesday 1 February (World Interfaith Harmony Week begins) Let us pray for people of other faiths. May we reach out to one another to discover what we hold in common and explore the riches of our differences

Thursday 2 February (The Presentation of Christ in the Temple - Candlemas) Let us pray for a joyous recognition of the heritage Jews and Christians share. May we offer ourselves to God, as we remember the Christ child being brought to the Temple.

Friday 3 February Let us pray for a world where persecution is no more. May we examine our own prejudices, work for an end to discrimination and campaign against injustice.

Saturday 4 February Let us give thanks for the work of the Council of Christians and Jews. May we work for reconciliation in our own lives and strive towards a more peaceable world.

5-11 FEBRUARY

CHRISTIANITY IN PAKISTAN

Nathan Olsen

Earlier this year, USPG hosted a meeting with bishops from the Church of Pakistan and mission agencies based in the UK. The bishops from the Church of Pakistan were keen to emphasise their hopes for the future, as well as the limitations they currently face as representatives of a minority faith. Amongst the issues raised were the lack of education and employment opportunities that Christians face in Pakistan, as well as explicit issues such as the forced conversion of Christians and repressive blasphemy laws.

In the country's most recent census, the Christian population has fallen in number and there is widespread feeling amongst the Christians that it is a struggle to speak out on such issues. On a more positive note, the bishops spoke of their clear passion for theological education and their desire to train clergy and laity in political advocacy. While it can be incredibly challenging to sustain and grow a church in a restricted environment, their faith in Jesus Christ and the power of prayer was evident for all present to see. Let us keep our brothers and sisters in Pakistan in our prayers.

Sunday 5 February (The Third Sunday before Lent)

Uphold, O Lord, all those who suffer for their faith.

May they know you as a rock to stand on

and a light to guide the way.

May their hearts be filled with grace

and their voices be raised in song.

Monday 6 February Let us pray for the bishops of Pakistan. May their faith sustain and encourage one another in difficult times and be an inspiration to their church communities.

Tuesday 7 February Let us pray for the people of Pakistan in the aftermath of devastating floods. May we show solidarity through our giving and stand alongside them in our thoughts and prayers.

Wednesday 8 February Let us pray for mission agencies seeking to promote the Gospel. May they listen to the communities amongst whom they work and seek to demonstrate love in action.

Thursday 9 February Let us pray for Christians who are marginalised because of their faith. May they find courage and resilience as they shape their life in the face of denied opportunities and restricted employment.

Friday 10 February Let us pray for a greater understanding between Muslims and Christians. May we be generous in our appreciation of the unfamiliar and strange.

Saturday 11 February Let us give thanks for the witness of the Church in Pakistan and its passion to educate and train its clergy and laity. May we be inspired by their example and never take our freedom for granted.

12-18 FEBRUARY

BRAY DAY

Jo Sadgrove, USPG's Research and Learning Advisor, shares the challenges of uncovering USPG's archives

We are living in a time in which questions about history have never been more heightened or charged. What do we know of the past? How do we uncover and educate ourselves about histories that have been lost? How do we respond as people of faith to historical injustices? How we approach the figure of Thomas Bray, USPG's founder, is now a much more complicated prospect than it was ten years ago.

Over the past two years, at USPG we have been working on our archives to better understand the complex and challenging history of this former slave owning organisation. The USPG correspondence archive is vast, and we have only managed to analyse a tiny proportion of letters, records and accounts. We are now very pleased to have recruited a full time PhD candidate, the Revd Garfield Campbell from Jamaica, who will be developing this work in dialogue with USPG and with the Church of the Province of the West Indies, whose own stories and experiences of this shared history are profoundly different from our own. It is only by doing this work in dialogue with those most brutally impacted by the legacies of slavery that we have any hope of approaching an understanding of what true reparation might mean.

Sunday 12 February (The Second Sunday before Lent)

**From the cowardice that shrinks from new truths,
from the laziness that is content with half-truth,
from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth,**

O God of truth, deliver us.

(Source unknown)

Monday 13 February We pray for the work of USPG in the week that we remember its founder, Thomas Bray. May we look back with open minds to discover new insights to inform the path we tread.

Tuesday 14 February We pray for courage to face uncomfortable truths. May we be honest in our reckoning of the past and sensitive in our unfolding the future.

Wednesday 15 February We pray for all who live with the shadow of the slave trade. May we work tirelessly to understand and dismantle its legacy.

Thursday 16 February We pray for all who seek to educate and inform. May our places of learning be open to all, offering new pathways and new vision.

Friday 17 February We pray for the work of Garfield Campbell as he explores USPG's archives. May USPG learn from both its history and from its growing relationship with the Church of the Province of the West Indies.

Saturday 18 February Let us give thanks for the vision that inspired USPG. May we, like Thomas Bray, seek to deepen our understanding of the gospel, be attentive to the world and promote the common good.

19-25 FEBRUARY

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN SIERRA LEONE

The Anglican Diocese of Freetown and the North in Sierra Leone joins with its neighbours around the world to mark World Day of Social Justice. Around the globe, millions of people are prohibited from living a fair life. In Sierra Leone, a country that has seen civil war, many of its people are without homes, jobs, healthcare, nutrition and more. It must be the responsibility of the privileged to ensure that a just world is created where social justice is a norm for all. As God's word teaches us, social justice is mandatory. We are called to love our neighbour as ourselves. (Matthew 22:39) This means eliminating poverty and illiteracy, and any form of discrimination that violates human rights and prevents human flourishing.

The Church in Sierra Leone prays that its government and people will follow the teachings of the Bible and 'give justice to the weak and the fatherless' and 'maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute'. (Psalm 82:3) Its Livelihoods Recovery, Youth and Governance programme for young people in agriculture, aquaculture and food processing, sponsored by USPG, is underpinned by its determination to pursue justice for all. The Church prays that, being made in the image and likeness of God, Sierra Leoneans will learn to treat each other with love, that they will have equal access to justice and all will be able to share in the country's resources.

Sunday 19 February (The Sunday next before Lent)

God of Justice,

let justice roll down like water

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream,

in the name of Jesus,

our guide and our peace.

Monday 20 February (World Day of Social Justice) Let us pray for the people of Sierra Leone. May they move towards a just and fair society where all can benefit from the country's rich resources.

Monday 21 February Let us pray for the Diocese of Freetown and the North. May its work amongst the poor and marginalised people change attitudes and lives for the better.

Wednesday 22 February (Ash Wednesday) Let us pray for our broken world and sinful selves. May our hearts be turned and your passion for justice be released.

Thursday 23 February Let us pray for all who carry painful memories of war and faction. May memories heal and the pursuit of justice bring lasting peace.

Friday 24 February Let us pray for young people struggling to make their way in the world. May they have mentors to guide them and be given opportunities to build secure and meaningful lives.

Saturday 25 February Let us give thanks for prophetic voices, whose demand for justice will not be silenced. May we join their cry and turn words into actions.

26 FEBRUARY – 4 MARCH

USPG LENT APPEAL

This Lent, we are praying with two of our partner churches, the Anglican Church of Tanzania and the Church of Ceylon in Sri Lanka and supporting their life changing programmes.

In the Chamwino district of Tanzania almost all pregnant women were afraid to go to hospital. They delivered their babies at home in fear of the stigma and discrimination they might face in hospitals and in their local community if they test positive for HIV.

The Church of Tanzania's Prevention of Transmission of HIV programme provides both the practical and medical support needed to prevent the virus being passed on from mothers to their children. Thanks to this programme, babies are being born HIV free, breaking the chain of infection.

Sri Lanka is undergoing a serious economic crisis. The soaring cost of living caused by food and fuel shortages has caused power cuts, a lack of medicines and the near collapse of Sri Lanka's health system.

The Church of Ceylon is assisting struggling families with immediate support in the form of food parcels and planning long term advocacy and outreach projects to create sustainable livelihoods in the future.

With your support this Lent our church partners can continue to help vulnerable people in their local communities. Please join the global Anglican Church in transforming lives. To find out more about this year's Lent appeal visit www.uspg.org.uk/lent

Sunday 26 February (The First Sunday of Lent)

**Make in us new and contrite hearts, O God,
that we turn our money into bread for our neighbour
as we journey towards Easter,
and prepare to kneel at the foot of the cross.**

Monday 27 February Let us pray for USPG's Lent Appeal. May we give generously to transform lives affected by poverty, disease and discrimination.

Tuesday 28 February Let us pray for the Church of Tanzania's programme to prevent the transmission of HIV. May the support women receive release them from fear and protect the children they bear.

Wednesday 1 March Let us pray for the Church of Ceylon as Sri Lanka's economic crisis bites hard. May its work to alleviate hunger and build livelihoods be protected.

Thursday 2 March Let us pray for the leaders of the Church in Tanzania. May their desire to proclaim the Kingdom of God through spiritual and socio-economic transformation be realised.

Friday 3 March Let us pray for all near and far struggling to feed their families. May we be good neighbours, paying attention to their needs and finding ways to make a positive difference.

Saturday 4 March Let us give thanks for all the good gifts we enjoy. May our Lenten disciplines make us mindful of the needs of others and generous in our thinking and doing.

USPG⁺ PARTNERS IN
GLOBAL MISSION

Journey to Freedom

CHRISTMAS APPEAL



HELP FUND RESCUE MISSIONS FOR PEOPLE CAPTURED BY HUMAN TRAFFICKERS

Your gifts will support the work of the Diocese of Durgapur in North India's life-changing 'Anti-Human Trafficking' programme.

This amazing programme runs rescue missions to free those who have experienced trafficking while making the journey across the border between Bangladesh and India.

With your gifts, they can save lives and spread awareness about this terrible crisis.

Scan this QR code or visit uspg.org.uk/Christmas



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