

PRAY WITH THE WORLD CHURCH

PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS FROM
THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

18 April – 24 July 2021

USPG⁺ PARTNERS IN
GLOBAL MISSION

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THE GIFT OF PEACE

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them ‘Peace be with you....’ (Luke 24: 36)

So begins the Gospel passage for the first Sunday of this Prayer Diary. It is a beautiful way to start. This Prayer Diary finds us ‘talking about’ many things: from leadership in the Church of England to theological reflection in Korea and healthcare in Tanzania; we ‘talk about’ and reflect in our prayers the mission of God which we are called to be a part of.

The Gospel passage finds Jesus’ terrified disciples huddled together in the upper room, believing they have seen a ghost, as the risen Jesus appears to them. Into this space of fear and despondency, Jesus offers them peace. He shows them his hands and his feet, he eats a piece of broiled fish, and he opens their minds so that they can understand the scriptures.

My prayer in this season of the USPG Prayer Diary is that our minds may also be opened as we read and pray about the actions of God in so many places in these coming weeks. And that in doing so we too may receive that same gift of peace. The peace which comes from God, that is beyond all understanding, which will keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God.

May the blessing of God’s peace be on us, and on all whom we read about and pray for in this Prayer Diary.

The Rev’d Canon Richard Bartlett, Director of Mission Engagement, USPG

18 - 24 APRIL

PROTECT THE PLANET

Fran Mate, USPG Regional Manager for Africa

International Mother Earth Day reminds us that the Earth and its ecosystems provide us with life and sustenance. We derive our survival from the Earth, so we desperately need to protect it.

We need to promote harmony with nature to achieve a just balance between our personal needs and the environmental needs of the generations to come.

Education is the foundation for progress. We need to develop a global citizenry fluent in the science of climate change and aware of the existential threat our planet faces. We need to empower everyone with the knowledge to inspire action. Climate literacy is the driving force behind the creation of environmentalist laws and policies, the acceleration of green technologies and the adoption of sustainable lifestyles. We can see the urgency with which young people act for climate justice, forming social movements and advocating lifestyle changes. We all need to act with this urgency.

We need to hold each other accountable and demand environmental justice for all. We have a responsibility to nurture and protect the earth.

Thank you, God, for giving us the beautiful Earth with all that is in it. Help us to leave the world a better place for generations to come.

Sunday 18th April: Third Sunday of Easter:

Risen Christ,

Open our heart to the stranger.

**May we recognise that we are all made in Your image,
And let us work together to protect the planet we share.**

Monday 19th April: Let us pray for those who have been displaced by the effects of climate change. May we welcome them with open arms whilst recognising the impact of our actions on the world.

Tuesday 20th April: We pray for the Green Schools initiative run by the Church of South India. May they continue to teach the next generation how to live sustainably and combat climate change.

Wednesday 21st April: Let us pray for schools in the Oxford Diocese, who have recently started a School Twinning Programme with the Church of South India. May friendships be fostered and skills developed.

Thursday 22nd April (International Mother Earth Day): God, we have damaged Creation beyond recognition. Give us the strength and resilience to pursue ecological justice and live sustainably.

Friday 23rd April (Saint George's Day): let us give thanks for the life of St George. May we join together in celebration with our brothers and sisters in Georgia, Ethiopia, England who hold him as their patron saint.

Saturday 24th April: We pray for cooperation and friendship across borders. Let us resist nationalism and work together for the common good.

25 APRIL - 1 MAY

IN THEIR ARMS

Frank Haji, Health Director at the Anglican Church of Tanzania

In Tanzania, nurses and midwives play a vital role in healthcare services, providing the bulk of patient care. 60% of health workers in Tanzania are nurses or midwives.

However, nurses and midwives face challenges that need to be addressed. There is a shortage of midwives, especially at rural health facilities. The midwifery shortage in Tanzania relates to both the shortage of pre-service nursing training and the low rate of midwife retention. In Tanzania, the shortage of skilled Birth Attendants is a severe healthcare problem. The ratio of healthcare workers in Tanzania is 0.32 professionals per 1000 people. In some areas, hospital staff also have to deal with shortages of medical supplies.

Despite all the challenges they face, Tanzanian nurses and midwives continue to save the lives of both mothers and newborn babies. Their work is particularly important in cases that are endangered by obstetrical complications, such as haemorrhages, sepsis and eclampsia. Nurses also treat adult patients affected by conditions like pneumonia, malaria and tuberculosis. USPG has worked with hospitals in Tanzania to prevent shortages of medicine by establishing an Essential Drug Revolving Fund and the Anglican Church of Tanzania is working with the Ministry of Health to recruit more hospital staff.

Sunday 25th April: Fourth Sunday of Easter (World Malaria Day):

Almighty Lord,

As Jesus laid down His life for us,

May we devote our lives to You.

Let us rejoice in the promise of new life.

Monday 26th April (Saint Mark the Evangelist): Let us give thanks for the life and ministry of St Mark the Evangelist.

Tuesday 27th April (South Africa Freedom Day): Let us pray for continued peace and reconciliation in South Africa.

Wednesday 28th April: Let us pray for nurses and midwives in Tanzania. May more midwives join the profession and may those working in the profession be provided with the necessary equipment.

Thursday 29th April: Let us remember that certain parts of the world are struggling with other diseases during the Covid-19 pandemic, such as malaria. We pray for USPG partners running healthcare initiatives in Myanmar and Tanzania.

Friday 30th April: We pray for the work of the Tanzania Nursing and Midwifery Council, which regulates and trains nurses and midwives in Tanzania.

Saturday 1st May (Saint Philip and Saint James): Let us give thanks for the life and works of the apostles Philip and James.

2 MAY - 8 MAY

LEARNING NEW SKILLS

Davidson Solanki, USPG Regional Manager for Asia and the Middle East

Bollobhpur Mission Hospital is administered by the Church of Bangladesh as part of its health ministry. The hospital is situated in rural Bangladesh, serving residents of the village communities living near the border with India. At the hospital, young men and women train to be laboratory technicians, nurses and midwives. The students participating in this training all come from a similar socio-economic background, with 35% of residents in the local area living below the poverty line.

During 2020, Bollobhpur Mission Hospital trained 90 young women to be nurses and 13 young men to be laboratory technicians. These young men and women can now be found working in clinics, hospitals and community health programmes all over Bangladesh. Their training at Bollobhpur Mission Hospital means that they can now earn more money elsewhere, in turn allowing them to better support their families.

Bollobhpur Mission Hospital also provides a community health programme, which consists of four outstation village clinics and a team of six community health workers who visit villages in areas near to the hospital. The village clinics are staffed by experienced midwives who are supported by teams of student midwives, who take on this role as part of their training.

USPG feels privileged to partner with the Church of Bangladesh in supporting their health ministry through Bollobhpur Mission Hospital.

Sunday 2nd May: Fifth Sunday of Easter:

**Creator God,
Help us abide in You,
As You abide in us.
Let us learn from each other,
And from You.**

Monday 3rd May (World Press Freedom Day): Let us pray for journalists around the world, especially in countries where freedom of speech is repressed. May they be protected from harm and work to amplify the truth.

Tuesday 4th May: We pray for the work done at Bollobhpur Hospital, run by the Church of Bangladesh. May we continue to offer our support to initiatives which not only heal people, but to teach them to heal others.

Wednesday 5th May (International Midwives Day): Let us pray for new life, and those who work to ensure its protection. We pray for nurses and midwives across the world.

Thursday 6th May: We give thanks for the scientists and researchers who have worked to produce vaccines for Covid-19. Let us pray for the equitable distribution of these vaccines around the world.

Friday 7th May: We pray for greater access to healthcare worldwide. May we recognise the value of every human life and implement practical steps to ensure everyone has access to healthcare.

Saturday 8th May: Let us pray for all discerning their vocation amidst uncertainty and fear. May they be guided by God in all they do.

9 MAY - 15 MAY

LEADING THE WAY

Born in Montego Bay, Jamaica, the Rt Rev Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover, has an association with USPG which stretches back to her youth. 'I was always aware of and interested in the work of USPG', she recalls. Bishop Rose says that 'I have always been keen to work with or to support organisations that are looking outwards, supporting ministry in far-flung places' and as a leader herself, to engage with "people who are key leaders within the life of the Church throughout the world".

A trail blazer and role model, Bishop Rose is not only the first black woman bishop in the Church of England but also the first to have been appointed as Chaplain to the Queen and Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons. She was awarded an MBE for services to young people and the Church in the 2020 New Year Honours List.

Bishop Rose was consecrated at St Paul's Cathedral in London in November 2019 by the Most Rev'd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury. At her installation, Archbishop Justin described her as 'one of the most exceptional Christian leaders'. Bishop Rose spoke at the launch of USPG's new archive in February 2021, offering her reflections on the history of USPG and closing the event with a blessing.

Sunday 9th May: Sixth Sunday of Easter:

“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends”.

Beloved God,

May we treat one another as true equals.

Let us love each other as your Son taught us to.

Monday 10th May: We pray for the work of leaders across the world church. May they work together to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Tuesday 11th May: Let us remember the life of Mary Seacole, a compassionate and resilient woman who provided healing in times of conflict. May we emulate her caring attitude towards others.

Wednesday 12th May: Let us pray for the Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. Bless them in the work they do and in their relationships with other churches around the world.

Thursday 13th May (Ascension Day): Holy Father, as you raised your Son to heaven, may we embrace the knowledge that He will remain with us evermore.

Friday 14th May (Saint Matthew, Mary Seacole): Let us give thanks for the life and work of St Matthew.

Saturday 15th May (International Day of Families): Let us pray for families, connected and estranged, that they may feel God’s unconditional love.

16 MAY - 22 MAY

THEOLOGICAL FORMATION

Rebecca Boardman, USPG Regional Manager for East Asia, Oceania and Europe

The relationship between the Anglican Church in Korea and USPG dates back to 1889, with the consecration and sending of Charles John Corfe as the first Missionary Bishop of Korea. The Church now has over 120 parish and mission Churches, four religious communities and around 55,000 members. It is a Church full of gifts and diversity, and since its inception has endeavoured to be an indigenous church rooted in Korean culture.

Over the past 30 years a significant focus for the relationship between the Anglican Church in Korea (ACK) and USPG has been through engagement in theological formation. The ACK encourages its priests to apply Scripture to historical and contemporary subjects. Topics include post-colonial interpretations of the Book of Daniel and biblical criticism surrounding the writings of St Philip the Apostle.

Alongside their studies, priests in the Anglican Church of Korea provide pastoral support and spiritual resources for their local communities. During the Covid-19 pandemic, this has taken the form of creating and distributing icons, and broadcasting YouTube videos on books of the Bible, namely Proverbs, Psalms and Acts.

Sunday 16th May: Seventh Sunday of Easter:

**Knowing God,
May we trust in Your wisdom,
And follow the path You have set us on.
Let us be faithful disciples,
Spreading the Word.**

Monday 17th May: Let us give thanks for the relationship between the Anglican Church in Korea and USPG.

Tuesday 18th May: We pray for the work of theological colleges across the world church. May the work of these institutions help us to better understand God and the path He intends for us.

Wednesday 19th May: Let us give thanks for religious communities, and the people who devote their lives to worship. May they have strength and peace in all they do.

Thursday 20th May: Let us pray for innovative ways in which to share the Gospel during a pandemic. May we use this crisis as an opportunity to spread the Word.

Friday 21st May (World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development): Let us give thanks for the wonderful array of languages, cultures and people that make up God's world. May we strive for dialogue and development, embrace difference and love each other.

Saturday 22nd May (International Day for Biological Diversity): Let us also give thanks for the great diversity of species that inhabit our planet. Bless our efforts to preserve God's creation.

23 MAY - 29 MAY

BLACK LIVES MATTER

On 25th May 2020, George Floyd died in the city of Minneapolis, USA, as a result of police brutality. His death was a shocking sight and news of his passing spread quickly. Alongside other victims of police brutality, such as Michael Brown Jr., Breonna Taylor and Trayvon Martin, Floyd's name has become a powerful symbol of the systemic injustice that people of colour face throughout their lives.

As Trayvon Martin's death in Florida in 2012 led to the formation of the Black Lives Matter movement, the killing of George Floyd resulted in the resurgence and growth of Black Lives Matter. The summer of 2020 saw anti-racist protests worldwide, from the US and the UK to Japan and Brazil. These protests raised a huge amount of awareness of racism and the ways in which racism pervades society. They even led to changes in American law, particularly in police departments in major American cities. However, there is still much work to be done to combat racism in all of its forms around the world.

USPG continues to say that Black Lives Matter and to stand in solidarity with the marginalised and the repressed, seeking justice for all.

Sunday 23rd May: Pentecost:

Almighty Lord,

May we be filled by the Holy Spirit,

And spread your Good News across the nations.

Let us celebrate the diversity of humankind,

Using language as a gift not a barrier.

Monday 24th May: Let us give thanks for the work of the African Union, bringing together a continent of 1500 different languages. May we learn to embrace difference, and to collaborate well.

Tuesday 25th May (Anniversary of George Floyd's Death, Africa Day):

Let us remember the life of George Floyd, whose death reminded us of others lost and cast a shadow over the world. May we work for justice and peace, to create fairer societies than the one in which he was killed.

Wednesday 26th May (Saint Augustine of Canterbury): Let us give thanks for the life and work of St Augustine. Bless the work of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and all of the Bishops across the Anglican Communion.

Thursday 27th May: May we acknowledge racism in all its forms and work together to strive for equality and diversity in all we do.

Friday 28th May: Let us have open minds and welcoming hearts in all we do.

Saturday 29th May: May we work together across denominations in an ecumenical spirit. Let us recognise our differences and collaborate over shared values.

30 MAY - 5 JUNE

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Rachel Mander, Faith Outreach Officer at Hope for the Future

Hope for the Future is an organisation that focuses on training people to effectively lobby for action on climate change. USPG partners with Hope for the Future to encourage churches across the UK to get involved in political action in support of ecological justice.

In 2019 and 2020, Hope for the Future ran church engagement workshops, webinars and sermons. 720 people attended these events and 97 church contacts were made. This led to 13 meetings with MPs, a climate hustings and even cooperation between churches and MPs in the form of a local tree-planting initiative. Hope for the Future has also trained USPG volunteers to speak out about ecological justice, resulting in speaking engagements at local churches and increased engagement with climate issues at a diocesan level.

Whilst the Covid-19 pandemic has prevented further face-to-face meetings between volunteers and MPs, USPG and Hope for the Future are now working together on the Make COP26 Count programme. COP26 is a United Nations summit about climate change and how countries are planning to tackle it, taking place in November 2021. Make COP26 Count seeks to equip churches in political advocacy and practical action, in order to secure national and international commitments to ecological justice.

Visit www.uspg.org.uk/cop26 to find out more about this campaign.

Sunday 30th May: Trinity Sunday:

Loving God,

May we be inspired by your divine partnership,

As we work with our partners.

Let us learn from each other and grow in fellowship.

Monday 31st May (Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth):

O Lord, let us remember that through you anything is possible. Bless our sisters and brothers in their Kingdom work.

Tuesday 1st June: We give thanks for the work of Hope for the Future. May we encourage churches to become more involved in the fight against climate change.

Wednesday 2nd June: Let us pray for our elected representatives. May they make just decisions and treat one another with respect.

Thursday 3rd June (Corpus Christi): Let us celebrate the institution of communion, giving thanks for the holy sacrament. May we grow closer to God, and to each other, as we do so.

Friday 4th June: Let us pray for youth-led movements for ecological justice, such as the Young Christian Climate Network and Fridays for Future. May we learn from their enthusiasm, knowledge and urgency.

Saturday 5th June (World Environment Day): Let us give thanks for the wonders of the environment. May we recognise the urgency with which we need to act to protect it. Bless the work of those who commit their lives to the cause of ecological justice, like Ridhima Pandey and India Logan-Riley.

PRAY WITH THE WORLD CHURCH



USA:
Black
Lives
Matter

Jamaica:
Windrush Day

Egypt:
Working
Across
Cultures

Tanzania:
In Their Arms

USPG⁺ PARTNERS IN
GLOBAL MISSION

18 APRIL - 24 JULY 2021



6 JUNE - 12 JUNE

INI KOPURIA

Rachel Parry, USPG's Director of Global Relations

Ini Kopuria is remembered each year on 6th June for his founding of the Melanesian Brotherhood in 1925. This community is the largest religious community in the Anglican Communion and has vibrant missions in the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Polynesia.

Brother Ini's ministry is notable for its beginnings in his role as a policeman, which provides an inspirational example for those who have an unconventional foundation in leadership training within the Church. His influence was such that even after he had left the police, he was asked to return due to the power of his presence in conflict and his approach to peace-making. He is quoted as saying in response, "It would be bad if I were to go there with a rifle; I may want to return one day with the Gospel."

The Melanesian Brotherhood continues the work that Brother Ini began, carrying on the peace-making role for which he was known. The Brothers played a critical role in peace building in the 1990s and 2000s during tensions in the Solomon Islands. The community continues to hold the radically inclusive belief that everyone is a brother and a sister no matter who they are, where they are from or what they have done.

Brother Jairus Honiseu is the current Head Brother of the Melanesian Brotherhood, leading their regional mission work in areas such as the Philippines.

Sunday 6th June: First Sunday after Trinity (Ini Kopuria):

Almighty God, king of kings,

You lift the lowly and cast down the proud.

May we work in your image to create a fairer world,

Filled with peace and justice.

Monday 7th June: Let us give thanks for the life of Ini Kopuria. May we devote our lives to spreading the Gospel, as he did.

Tuesday 8th June (World Oceans Day): We pray for the world's oceans. Humanity has neglected and polluted them, ignoring their fundamental importance to our wellbeing. May we reverse the damage we have done, and work for cleaner and safer oceans.

Wednesday 9th June: Let us pray for the work of the Melanesian Brotherhood in the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Polynesia. May their commitment to peace and justice inspire Christians across the world.

Thursday 10th June: We pray for the Church of the Province of Melanesia in the southwestern region of the Pacific Ocean and the Pacific Conference of Churches.

Friday 11th June (Saint Barnabas): Let us give thanks for the life and work of St Barnabas, friend of the poor and missionary to Cyprus.

Saturday 12th June: Let us pray for the work of the Alliance of Small Island States, consisting of countries from the Caribbean, the Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans, and join them in their calls for more urgent action to prevent climate change.

13 JUNE - 19 JUNE

AND THE DESERT WILL BE GLAD

Fran Mate, USPG Regional Manager for Africa

Desertification happens in Africa at an estimated 20,000 hectares per year. Archaeological records claim that arid areas of Africa have been getting drier for almost 5,000 years. Desertification is a consequence of drought, with increasing pressures on fragile arid and semi-arid lands driven by a greater number of people and livestock. This pressure is accelerating land degradation.

According to estimates, 319 million hectares of land in Africa are vulnerable to desertification due to sand movement. The desert is moving at an annual rate of 5 km in the semi-arid areas of West Africa. At least 70 per cent of Ethiopia is prone to desertification. While in Kenya, around 80 per cent of the land is threatened by desertification. This means that the land is much less productive, so it is increasingly hard for farmers to grow their crops. Desertification also releases greenhouse gases into the air, which accelerates global warming.

Climate change is increasing the probability of dryland areas becoming deserts. Policy responses and integrated land management practices, as well as indigenous and local knowledge, are needed to consider the complex and multi-faceted causes and effects of desertification. Combating desertification would make it easier for farmers to produce food and release fewer greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Sunday 13th June: Second Sunday after Trinity:

Creator Father, may we be patient and kind,

As we seek to serve You.

Let us spread the seeds of the Kingdom,

Trusting in You that they will grow and flower.

Monday 14th June: Let us pray for the people of Kenya and Ethiopia, whose land is particularly vulnerable to desertification and drought.

May we work to improve this situation, becoming more aware of the links between our overconsumption and climate change.

Tuesday 15th June (Beginning of Refugee Week): Let us pray for all displaced people, refugees and migrants. May we offer them hospitality and refuge from danger and fear.

Wednesday 16th June: Let us prayer for the humility and strength to change our ways. May we live more sustainable lives, and encourage others to do likewise.

Thursday 17th June (World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought): Let us pray for countries across the world affected by desertification and drought. May we recognise the global impact of our overconsumption and take action to raise awareness of these issues.

Friday 18th June (Bernard Mizeki): Let us give thanks for the life of Bernard Mizeki, African missionary and martyr. We pray for the institutions who continue to work in his name, such as Bernard Mizeki College in Zimbabwe and the St Bernard Mizeki Men's Guild, which promotes Christian leadership across Southern Africa.

Saturday 19th June (International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict): We pray for everyone affected by sexual violence, particularly victims of sexual violence in conflict. Lord, we ask that you heal their scars and bring their perpetrators to justice.

20 JUNE - 26 JUNE

WINDRUSH DAY

Windrush Day marks the anniversary of the ship MV Empire Windrush docking at Tilbury Docks on 22 June 1948 with its passenger list of over 500 people mostly from Jamaica. These were young adventurers grasping the opportunity to sail into what they hoped would be an economically bright future for them and their families – even as they left all-year-round sunshine and heat behind.

The Windrush's significant numbers were greeted with extreme discrimination and institutionalised racism. This manifested itself in many ways, including enduring inequalities based on race in social, economic and political spheres. In amongst this, there have been glimpses of what could happen if we learned to love all of God's creation and embrace fellow human beings as made by and in the image of the Creator God.

Out of a background of opportunities denied, futures blighted, hopes dashed and faith challenged has emerged a major cause for rejoicing: the emergence of the Black Church Movement in Britain, a movement that permeates the entire Christian community and beyond.

These words were adapted from a statement published by Churches Together in England in response to Windrush Day, written by the Rt Rev'd Dr Joe Aldred, Chair of the Windrush '70 National Service Planning Group.

Sunday 20th June: Third Sunday after Trinity

(Father's Day, World Refugee Day):

Eternal God,

Bless us with the spirit of unity.

May we embrace difference,

And work with each other,

To put our faith into action.

Monday 21st June: We pray for refugees, displaced and stateless people. May we greet them with open arms and welcoming hearts, recognising that they too are made in the image of God.

Tuesday 22nd June (St Alban, Windrush Day): Let us give thanks for the life of St Alban, and for the contributions of immigrants to our society. May we recognise their works and offer hospitality to all who migrate to the UK today.

Wednesday 23rd June (International Widows Day): Let us pray for resolution to the injustice that widows face, particularly in Africa and Asia. May we support the United Nations in its efforts to bring this issue to light, and that justice may be done.

Thursday 24th June (Birth of John the Baptist): Let us give thanks for the life and ministry of St John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus to enter into our lives.

Friday 25th June: We pray for those who have lost a spouse or partner, both recently or long ago. May their wounds heal and their memories bring happiness.

Saturday 26th June: Let us pray for the descendants of immigrants living in the UK, as they continue to face many of the injustices their forebears faced decades ago. May we work for a fairer, more inclusive society.

27 JUNE - 3 JULY

INDEPENDENCE IN SEYCHELLES

Fran Mate, USPG Regional Manager for Africa

The Republic of Seychelles comprises 115 islands in the western Indian Ocean. The Seychelles were first settled by the French in 1770 and remained in French hands until Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo. In 1814, the Seychelles were ceded to Britain under the Treaty of Paris.

The Seychelles became independent on 29th June 1976. Each year on 29 June, the Seychellois celebrate the anniversary of their independence from British rule with a vibrant display of patriotism and pride that spills over into the city streets and lights up the night sky with the most anticipated fireworks display of the year.

In the lead-up to Independence Day celebrations, the streets of the Seychelles' capital city Victoria are adorned with the bright colours of the Seychelles flag, and twinkling lights are hung from lampposts. An entertainment line-up featuring top local performers is laid on in Victoria in the evening and draws one of the biggest crowds of the year. Visitors to the islands are encouraged to join in the festivities and find themselves welcomed in a typical display of Creole hospitality.

The Seychellois celebrate this day with hope and determination. We thank God for the people of Seychelles.

Sunday 27th June: Fourth Sunday after Trinity:

Healing God,

May we look to You in uncertain times.

Let us take the words of your Son to heart:

“Do not fear, only believe”.

Monday 28th June: Let us pray for the Diocese of the Seychelles as they celebrate the anniversary of their independence.

Tuesday 29th June (Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Seychelles

Independence Day): Almighty Father, let us remember the examples of St Peter and St Paul, two of your most loyal disciples. May we seek to emulate the conviction of their faith through our deeds and words.

Wednesday 30th June: We pray for the Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa (CAPA) and their work in bringing together diverse communities across the continent. CAPA is an effective advocate for interreligious and intercultural dialogue, as well as a powerful campaigner against human trafficking and gender-based violence.

Thursday 1st July: Lord, we pray for those amongst us facing personal challenges. May they find strength and comfort in You.

Friday 2nd July: We pray for all Christians dealing with doubt and uncertainty. May they be embraced by Christian fellowship and filled with the Holy Spirit.

Saturday 3rd July (Saint Thomas): Let us remember the life and works of St Thomas the Apostle. May we cast aside our scepticism and choose the way that Jesus taught us.

4 JULY - 10 JULY

THE COMMON GOOD

The National Health Service (NHS) was born out of a vision of healthcare available to all, regardless of wealth or status. It was born out of a belief in the common good.

Before the founding of the NHS, those without means didn't dare call a doctor for fear of the bill that would land on the doormat. They couldn't afford to go to hospital, so they went to workhouses to receive basic medical care. Without the NHS, the poor were left to fend for themselves at their times of direst need, relying on home cures for illnesses and diseases.

Today we celebrate and give thanks for the courage and passion of the politicians who made the NHS a reality. We celebrate and give thanks for those who continue that vision in today's NHS, despite the growing pressures upon them. We say thank you to all of the nurses and doctors who continue to provide care for us today.

We give thanks to God for our NHS and pray that it continues to serve all who need it with humanity, dignity and compassion.

The above words are taken from a sermon for the 70th Anniversary of the NHS in 2018, given by the Bishop of London, the Rt Rev'd and Rt Hon. Dame Sarah Mullally DBE.

Sunday 4th July: Fifth Sunday after Trinity:

Heavenly Father,

Give us the strength to heal inequalities.

May we work together so that all can be healthy,

In body and soul.

Monday 5th July (Foundation of National Health Service): Let us give thanks for universal healthcare. May we recognise the work of those who established the National Health Service, and the contributions of those who administer healthcare in the UK today. We pray for nurses, doctors and everyone else who has been working for the NHS during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Tuesday 6th July: Lord, we pray for countries where healthcare is expensive and inaccessible. We pray for a world in which everyone can access healthcare free at the point of use.

Wednesday 7th July: Let us pray for the work of mission hospitals in Malawi. We pray for the medical teams working at St Luke's Hospital in the Diocese of Upper Shire, St Anne's Hospital in the Diocese of Lake Malawi and St Peter's Hospital in the Diocese of North Malawi.

Thursday 8th July: We pray for an end to conflict. May we act as peacemakers in our daily lives and campaign for an end to war and violence.

Friday 9th July: Lord, we pray for the wisdom and strength to be good disciples. May we spread the Gospel with conviction and confidence.

Saturday 10th July: Let us pray for honest and open communication within the Church. May we disagree well and walk in solidarity together for the common good.

11 JULY - 17 JULY

WORKING ACROSS CULTURES

Habib Nader, USPG Regional Manager for the Church in the Province of the West Indies

The youth ministry of the Diocese of Egypt operates within a unique context. Christianity is a minority religion in Egypt, and Anglicanism is a minority denomination within Christianity in Egypt. The Diocese's approach to youth ministry is tailored to this context. One of their initiatives is the Gusour Cultural Centre based in All Saints' Cathedral in Cairo. This centre seeks to provide opportunities for young people to build bridges across cultures through workshops and performances.

According to one participant, "I used to see churches as forbidden places where I wasn't allowed to go. The first time I came to the Centre I cried, as it was my first time in a church. It is a peaceful place and people treat me well here". Another young person remarked that "the biggest problem we have is with the media, which tells Egyptians that Muslims and Christians have difficulties with each other. We are coming together to show that this is not true".

The leaders of the youth ministry have also created a training programme for youth leaders, which focuses on theological reflection and pastoral care. The Diocese hopes that this training will encourage more young people to become leaders within the Church.

Sunday 11th July: Sixth Sunday after Trinity (World Population Day):

“The Earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it”.

O God,

We have profoundly damaged Creation.

Give us the strength to recover what we have tainted,

Amplify the voices calling for renewal.

Monday 12th July: We pray for equal distribution of resources across the world. May we think globally in how we manufacture and consume products.

Tuesday 13th July: Let us pray for the Diocese of Egypt as they navigate the complex nature of being a “double-minority” church. We pray that their youth ministry encourages young people to develop relationships with each other and with God.

Wednesday 14th July: Let us pray for youth leaders across the world church. May they feel supported by their fellow Christians and valued as contributors to the life of the Church.

Thursday 15th July (World Youth Skills Day): Let us pray for the young. As they enter a world filled with uncertainty, may You guide them in the right direction. We pray for the educators who encourage them, and the adults who support them.

Friday 16th July: We pray for those struggling with mental health issues. May we treat mental health as seriously as we treat physical health, and promote wellbeing across the contexts in which we operate.

Saturday 17th July (International Justice Day): Lord, we pray for the work of international institutions in promoting and enacting justice.

18 JULY - 24 JULY

PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

Joy Wandabwa, Finance and Administration Officer for PROCMURA

The Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA) is a pan-African organisation focused on building good relations between Christians and Muslims across the continent. USPG has given PROCMURA an annual grant towards supporting its work since 1959, when the programme began.

PROCMURA's work deals with both religious and cultural diversity. In Christianity, we talk about Christian culture, which itself is not uniform and depends on where one lives. Over the years, PROCMURA has often talked about the two distinct ideas of Christianity in Africa and African Christianity.

Likewise, one of the issues that Islam has to deal with is the cultural difference that exists between Muslims, depending on where one lives. Because of this, Islam in Africa and African Islam are also used as two distinct notions.

PROCMURA's programmatic work promotes the idea of being truly Christian and truly Muslim in Africa. This work consciously prevents the growth of intolerant cultural norms, which can often be clothed in religious language, into the otherwise tolerant religio-cultural environment of Africa.

Sunday 18th July: Seventh Sunday after Trinity (Nelson Mandela Day):

Almighty God,

We have much to learn.

Teach us your ways of righteousness, your gospel of love.

May we be faithful servants, eager to do Your will.

Bless us in all we do.

Monday 19th July (USPG Conference): Let us pray for the USPG conference, giving thanks for all in attendance and those who planned the event. May we use this opportunity to amplify voices from across the Anglican Communion as we seek to deepen existing partnerships and begin new friendships.

Tuesday 20th July: Let us pray for the peaceful co-existence of different religions and cultures. May we particularly pray for the work of the Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa.

Wednesday 21st July: We pray for open minds and sensitive ears, so that we may better listen to voices from the margins. May we work better to bring about justice for the oppressed.

Thursday 22nd July (Saint Mary Magdalene): Let us give thanks for the life and witness of St Mary Magdalene. May we follow Christ as obediently as she did, and listen to the voices of women in the Church.

Friday 23rd July: Let us pray for religious tolerance worldwide. May we actively pursue positive interaction with people of all faiths.

Saturday 24th July: Let us pray for churches, activists and leaders working for gender justice. May we seek to amplify their voices and listen to what they have to say.

PRAYER DIARY

Thank you for praying with the World Church.

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Yes, I am happy to be contacted by email.

We may contact you by post and telephone. If you do not wish to hear from us or have a preferred contact method, simply get in touch with us at **info@uspg.org.uk**

When you give us your details, you'll be added to our secure database so we can communicate with you as you have indicated. You can read our full data privacy notice at **www.uspg.org.uk/privacy**

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