



Thy Kingdom Come 2018 – *Global wave of prayer*

SUMMARY

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are inviting Christians to join another amazing wave of prayer across the UK and around the world - praying that people you know might come to know Jesus

It's happening between Ascension and Pentecost from 10th May – 20th May

Vision – In response to Archbishop Justin's 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer focus we want to encourage a wide variety and expression of prayer activities and gatherings across every mission community / parish in the diocese, and with other denominations during the nine days between Ascension and Pentecost 2018.

One aspect of our Diocesan vision is growing in prayer, and Thy Kingdom Come invites us to grow in prayer – praying as individuals, in families, with friends, with Christian brothers and sisters across the wider church in Devon and for those who do not yet know Jesus.

The shared hope for this wave of prayer is that as Christians pray together we will:

- be transformed through prayer
- be given new confidence and encouragement by the Holy Spirit
- be effective witnesses to Jesus Christ

What are we encouraging across Devon as our response to 'Thy Kingdom Come' 2018?

1. *A wide expression of prayer events across the diocese – churches, schools, community places, and ecumenically*
2. *A mini-pilgrimage! To a special Thy Kingdom Come 'beacon' celebration & prayer event in Exeter Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday evening as a conclusion to our prayer focus including a commissioning of God's people to return in the power of the Spirit to continue in our call to grow in prayer, make new disciples and serve our communities with joy.*

Our theme for Thy Kingdom Come 2018

This year our theme is 'The River of Life' taken from the prophet Ezekiel's vision of the outpouring of God's Spirit for healing and renewal.

The Old Testament Prophet Ezekiel visualised a stream of water flowing from God's temple growing from a trickle into a mighty river, with trees on the banks with fruit and leaves symbolising the healing of the nations. The temple represented or symbolised God's dwelling place, but this vision points to a future time when all people would be able to encounter God personally. The trees growing on the banks of the widening river, drawing water from it (with leaves and fruit in abundance) show that God's life and love will bring healing and wholeness to a broken world, between people and nations.

This message communicates the hope and life of God, symbolised by God's life giving spirit (presence) being made present in a new way to people who thought they were beyond hope. In chapter 7 of John's Gospel, Jesus makes reference to this when speaking during the festival of tabernacles (or booths)

On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood up and said in a loud voice; "If anyone is thirsty let them come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within them"

For Christians, Jesus is the source of our living hope – a hope that can be shared through loving, serving, praying and inviting others to explore the Christian faith.

At Pentecost we can celebrate that the promise of the Spirit has become a reality – the life giving Holy Spirit poured into the lives of all believers to know God personally and personally go for God, and with God, as witnesses of his saving love made known in Jesus

PRAYER SPACES

We want to encourage you to be involved in personal prayer or in a prayer event at your local church, in the community and with those from other churches. There's lots of resource ideas and materials available through www.thykingdomcome/global to inspire your prayer events. With Christian Aid week falling at the same time there are additional related resources available too.

As part of our River of life theme we're encouraging the use of prayer trees as part of your event or prayer space; and we'll be sending you leaf, fruit prayer templates to cut out and use. (There will also be origami prayer leaves to add an additional creative element!)

The prayer leaves are for writing and inviting prayers for people and places who need to receive hope and a vision of a better future, as individuals, communities or countries, and for those in need of healing and wholeness.

The fruit prayers are for our 'thank you' prayers for where we see signs of new possibilities, healing of relationships, new ventures that enable people to grow, flourish and prosper and people starting a journey of faith.

These can be placed on the prayer trees and offered to God.

Beacon Event – Pentecost Sunday (May 20th) 6.30pm

On Pentecost Sunday Exeter cathedral will be hosting a beacon celebration and prayer event and we're invited to bring our leaf and fruit prayers in a basket or in something that symbolises your community and the on-going work and prayer for God's kingdom across Devon.

Some ideas to get you thinking, planning and praying!

- Prayer spaces in schools (All church schools have received information from Tatiana Wilson in Education Dept)
- Prayer spaces in local churches
- Messy church prayer events – on-line resources available (see below)
- Prayer request boxes in cafés / pubs / local charity shops / gathering places / Parent toddler groups / Messy church gatherings / Youth groups – other places where we are 'present' as church in C.A.P centres, Food banks.
- Have a Prayer walk around your local community
- Hold a 24 – 7 type events (or 12 or 24 hours of prayer events) / Prayer vigil
- Use the Novena prayer resource available on the Thy Kingdom Come website or your own
- Offer prayer on your local high street streets / Community spaces / Why not set up a Prayer 'white board' on streets if your church is located with an on-the-street presence or host other prayer events.
- This year TKC coincides with Christian Aid week and there are additional resources available
- Be creative – we'd love to hear from you!
- Resources both on-line and can be purchased too – see below.

RESOURCES

- River of Life – prayer leaves, fruit and tree templates will be sent by email and also available to download from the diocesan website: <http://exeter.anglican.org/christian-faith/tkc>
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 - Please register to pledge to pray – you'll be located on the map and receive video clips and messages to inspire and encourage your prayers
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 - A wide range of resource ideas including the TKC logo and video clips can be found on www.thykingdomcome.global
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 - CPO offer a wide range of resources <https://www.cpo.org.uk/thykingdomcome>
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- **Christian Aid**
 1. If you are planning a BIG BREKKIE <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week/big-brekkie> could you include a prayer focus this year?
 2. If you are thinking of hosting a 24-7 type prayer space. Could you create a place to pray for Christian Aid? <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/35/prayer-stations-ideas>
 3. If you are carrying out a house to house collection could you make it into a prayer walk? <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/21>

If you are part of a Christian Aid supporters group could you invite others to join in praying for 5 friends with you? <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/9>

Please get in touch! – We'd love to hear what you are doing in your community

Also – why not video-blog something related to your prayer event?

We'd also love to hear stories from individuals who might like to share a response to being prayed for.

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Or

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