

## 100 Days of Prayer

### Travelling Well Together – Sustaining Ministry

#### Week 9

#### Theme for the week: Church buildings & the importance of place

In Chelmsford Diocese we are blessed with nearly six hundred church buildings. Many are an important part of our heritage and have been at the heart of the communities we serve for hundreds of years. Our buildings are associated with precious personal and corporate memories, such as family weddings or funerals, significant community milestones etc. Most importantly they are sacred places of worship, mission and ministry. Caring for church buildings is a great challenge for clergy, churchwardens and PCCs and responsibility for them can sometimes feel more like a burden than a blessing. It can be a challenging and often costly and complex ministry.

*Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!’ (Matthew 7 v24-27)*

This week, we **give thanks...**

- for our local church buildings in our context and for all that they mean to us and to our communities
- for those who take care of our church buildings, our churchwardens, our PCC members and our clergy
- for our DAC and Church Buildings Team, for their wisdom, experience and support

#### We **pray** that...

- we would be wise stewards of all that God has given us and good custodians of our buildings
- that we would find practical and metaphorical ways to fling wide our doors to welcome all
- that our buildings would tell the story always of our true foundation in Jesus Christ

*O heavenly architect,  
we pray for your unmeasured blessing  
upon our churches and sacred spaces.  
As they have given shape to prayer through many generations  
may they speak to us and all people  
as they seek to follow you afresh  
and as we seek to travel well together with Jesus and with each other  
Amen.*