

100 Days of Prayer

Travelling Well Together – Sustaining Ministry

The 100 Days of Prayer is a particular invitation to pray together across and within our diocese with shared intention and focus. Together, we can give thanks for what God has given. Together we name the reality of our present challenges honestly before God, as so many have done before us. Together, we give voice to our hope for a future held in God's care and purpose. Together, we open ourselves to listen to God and to God's wisdom through the power of the Holy Spirit as we seek God's calling for us as a diocese. After this 100 Days of Prayer we move, as a diocese, to 100 Days of Listening. Please do look out for resources for that as we would love to hear from you.

For each week of the 100 Days of Prayer there is a theme to frame our prayers and some prompts to focus our prayers.

Week 3

Theme for the week: Church growth

Church attendance in the Church of England has been falling for several decades. Over the same time, the population has grown. There has been some encouraging growth in attendance since the Covid-19 pandemic, however attendance has not yet returned to levels seen before the pandemic. Chelmsford diocese is not unique in this regard, and similar attendance patterns are observed across the whole Church of England.

We long for growth in our churches, in number, in spiritual commitment and in service. A recent survey by the Bible Society (The Quiet Revival) has suggested significant church growth among young

adults, particularly young men. We want to be churches and communities ready to welcome all who are exploring faith and church.

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. (Acts 2: 46-47)

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

- for our churches, schools and worshipping communities
- for our congregations, wherever they meet, whether in churches, schools, community centres, halls or outdoors
- for those who are new to church and who bring vitality and change

We **pray** that...

- our churches would grow in number, spiritual commitment and service
- we would be expectant and ready for growth

God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church, send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning, wisdom to our actions, joy to our worship and power to our witness. Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment to you, and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.