

From the Rector – May 2018



This month sees the third year of the annual wave of prayer known as “Thy Kingdom Come.” Launched by our Archbishops of Canterbury and York from within the Church of England it has now gone global and ecumenical.

“Thy Kingdom Come” is a simple yet powerful idea. It invites Christians around the world to pray for people to come to know Jesus Christ. It takes place over the 11 days between Ascension Day and Pentecost Sunday, this year 10th – 20th May.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has said about it: “In praying ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities.”

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who participates will find their own faith in Christ grows stronger, and will, through their prayer, help others – friends, family members, or neighbours - to know Jesus Christ.

The focus is on prayer to God, which recognises that it is God, the Holy Spirit, working in our lives, and the lives of others, who makes the difference. This familiar line from the Lord’s Prayer – “Thy Kingdom Come” - is a prayer placing our trust in God, opening ourselves to letting God change us, those around us, and the world.

We are being invited to take part whether as individuals, families and as a church. There are lots of ways to take part and lots of ideas, inspiration and resources on the very comprehensive “Thy Kingdom Come” website. Well worth a visit! There are some moving and faith-inspiring videos and quotes on the website, so do take a look. We’ll be sharing them over the next couple of weeks on our own All Saints social media feeds too.

When you visit the “Thy Kingdom Come” website you can make your personal “pledge2pray” through the 11 days, to show you are joining in, and inspire others to join. As we pray ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ we can consider what God might be calling us to do in our churches, our homes and in our own lives.

At the time of my writing this in April, groups here in All Saints and in Churches Together in Wokingham are still finalising details of their ideas about how they will take part and how you might join in with them – so look out for more information by the time this magazine is published at the start of May.

One special event for your diary is Sunday 13th May, when our 9.30am service here at All Saints will be an All Together Communion specially themed on for “Thy Kingdom Come”. Junior and Youth Church sessions are suspended that day for us all to come together in this one special service. As it’s a Sunday when there isn’t normally an 11am Family Service we are inviting the 11am congregation to join in too. We plan something to engage everyone in that service at 9.30am on 13th May.

Here is a prayer for the period we can begin using straightaway:

Almighty God,
your ascended Son has sent us into the world
to preach the good news of your kingdom:
inspire us with your Spirit and fill our hearts
with the fire of your love,
that all who hear your word may be drawn to you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

David Hodgson