



Registered Charity No. 251394



Thursday Prayer 2024

"Transformation - Now!"

Thursday Prayer is held in Ely Cathedral (usually in the Presbytery), on the 3rd Thursday of every month unless otherwise stated from 10.30-11am

They are also held at All Saint's Church, St Ives on 4th Thursday of each month at 2.30-3pm

See dates below.

Friends and family members are very welcome to attend as well. Each month we use a common theme and pray for a special concern. We also reflect upon our own membership of the Mothers' Union. If you are unable to attend, please use these prayers in your own group or home.

Thursday Prayer is now available on zoom.

Please see monthly MU Newsletter for details.

Dates for Thursday Prayer 2024

	Cathedral, Zoom	and St Ives
January	18	25
February	15	22
March	21	28
April	18	25
May	16	23
June	20	27
July	18	25
August	15	22
September	19	26
October	17	24
November	21	28
*December	12	19

***Please note following changes:**

a) Change of date in December from 3rd week to 2nd week due to Nativity Service in the cathedral.

b) Change of date in December from 4th week to 3rd week in St Ives.

Suggested Guide for Thursday Prayer

Introductory prayers

- *opening prayer;*
- *prayers for members and events in the Diocese;*
- *prayers for the theme and focus of the month;*

Bible reading and meditation

- *Bible reading;*
- *Meditation spoken upon the theme/focus or Bible reading either using own words or a chosen passage;*

Further prayer

- *an opportunity to offer personal concerns to God, either aloud or in silence;*
- *the Lord's Prayer;*
- *the Mothers' Union Prayer;*
- *the Thursday Prayer;*
- *the Grace;*

Hymn

- *a hymn or piece of music of the leader's choice may be used where it is considered appropriate. The Cathedral hymn book is the New English Hymnal.*

Our intercessions

In our intercessions we are asked to pray for:

- The worldwide work of the Mothers' Union;
- Sheran Harper (from Guyana) our Worldwide President;
- The Chief Executive; Beverley Jullien
- The Task Group Co-ordinators in Faith in Action, Praying our Faith, Finance & Administration and Communications.
- All who work in Mary Sumner House;
- Our province of Canterbury and Kathryn Anderson, our Provincial President.
- Our Worldwide Links:
Lusaka in Zambia
Shyogwe in Rwanda
Sokoto & Ikka in Nigeria
Karimnager in India
Plus Diocese to Diocese with Kigali & Vellore

The monthly prayers included in this booklet are mostly taken from the new MU books of prayers, "Dear God", "Praying in Every Season", and the Pocket Prayers series – "Faith in Action", "United in Fellowship" and "Vision and Mission"

The Mothers' Union Prayer

Loving Lord,

We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.

We pray for families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.

Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service, reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. Amen

The Thursday Prayer

Heavenly Father, you have called us apart to share in a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer. Take our prayers we humbly ask, fill them with your love and power, and use them in the cause of your glorious kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

JANUARY

FOCUS: TRANSFORMATION - NOW!

READING: 2 Corinthians 4: 16

PRAYER: Gracious God, make known to us your plans for peace and wellbeing; to bring lasting transformation. Lord, we pray that lives would be transformed into ones of self-respect and sufficiency through effective use of your resources. We pray that families would be transformed into strong and loving households as they explore your ways for relationship. We pray that communities would be transformed into ones of resilience and prosperity through trust and cooperation.

Gracious God, guide us in your plans for peace and wellbeing; to transform lives for good.

Amen

FEBRUARY

FOCUS: SERVING OTHERS

READING: 1 Corinthians 9: 24-27

PRAYER: Thank you, Lord, that as we reach out in service, you are at the heart of our endeavours. Thank you that when our support fails, you uphold; when our arms grow weary, you sustain; when our love wavers, you stay constant. May we serve with the love of Christ and bring comfort that comes from God. May we share burdens through the power of Christ and bring strength that comes from God. May we view others through the eyes of Christ and show compassion that comes from

God. May we respond with the forbearance of Christ and show grace that comes from God. Amen

MARCH

FOCUS: LENT

READING: Mark 1: 9-15

PRAYER: Temptation: temptation besets our daily lives; temptations encircle our every situation, our every move and action. Temptation separates us from God. Lord, we pray to be alert to temptations and ask for the enduring strength and fellowship of the Holy Spirit to help us grow closer to You this Lent. Amen

APRIL

FOCUS: UNITY

READING: Acts 4: 32-35

PRAYER: We join with our family throughout the world, with one voice, to glorify God's name. Though we may never meet, we are united in prayer. We share our sorrows and joys and together praise our God. As the family of God we are united in love. We glorify our Father with thankful hearts. Amen

MAY

FOCUS: SERVICE WITH LOVE

READING: 1 John 5: 1-6

PRAYER: Lord, let us serve your world with love as we mirror the example of Christ: Help us to love unconditionally. To refrain from needless expectations; to be generous in acceptance; to be selfless in support; as Christ has loved and forgiven us. Gracious Lord, show us the way to serve one another with love. May we place the needs of our neighbours above our own as we mirror the example of Christ. Amen

JUNE

FOCUS: TRUSTING IN CHRIST

READING: Mark 4: 26-34

PRAYER: Loving Father, our faith is in you: we trust in your plans for a future where we will thrive in showing love to those we seek to serve. Saviour Christ, our faith is in you: we trust in your plans for a future where we will bear eternal fruit as we follow your commands. Holy Spirit, our faith is in you: we trust in your plans for a future where we will be filled with power and guided in every truth. We place our future in your hands. May we continue to enrich family life for future generations. Amen

JULY

FOCUS: GOING FORWARD IN GOD'S PLAN

READING: Ephesians 1: 3-14

PRAYER: Lord mighty and righteous, our hope and our inheritance, we give you thanks for all the spiritual blessings you have for us, your people. In Christ you gave us new hope. By His grace you redeemed us and adopted us. You accepted us as heirs and co-heirs of your kingdom. And that is the hope we live by in faith. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

AUGUST

FOCUS: GIVING THANKS FOR MARY SUMNER

READING: Ephesians 4: 25-5:2

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the vision of Mary Sumner who gathered women together to be a wave of prayer to take the love of Christ into their homes and families. Help us to spread your word through love and prayers into every family home. Strengthen and bless all our members around the world as we carry out your mission. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen

SEPTEMBER

FOCUS: NURTURING FAITH

READING: Mark 8: 27-38

PRAYER: Our Heavenly King, may we treat those for whom we care as though we were serving Christ. We thank you for the nurturing of faith in families and individuals by Mothers' Union throughout the world. We pray for those with questions of faith; whose lives are dry without God. Make us eager to offer the water of life that many may drink and be refreshed by the Spirit. May we see the image of God in the face of our neighbour and lovingly care for their needs as though we were serving Christ. Amen

OCTOBER

FOCUS: PEACE

READING: Matthew 5: 9

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Prince of Peace. Look with love and compassion on those who are at enmity with one another. Grant them the grace of reconciliation and peace of heart. May we all be granted a share in your grace and enabled to live in love and harmony. This plea is not for our own selfish ends but to promote your greater honour and glory. Amen

NOVEMBER

FOCUS: CAMPAIGNING FOR CHRIST

READING: Psalm 82: 3-4

PRAYER:

Righteous God, we embrace our mission to share your love through speaking out for the helpless and campaigning for social justice.

Righteous God, we commit ourselves to campaign for equality and justice for all. Help us play our part in creating a just and peaceful society for your people on earth. May hope be stronger than struggle, may celebrations be more frequent than trials, may kindness prevail over judgment, may equality dissolve oppression, may love break walls of hate. Lord, as we go in your name, we celebrate our mission with thankful hearts. Amen

DECEMBER

FOCUS: THE GOOD NEWS

READING: Luke 3: 7-18

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus Christ, You came to us as a servant, not as a great ruler who wanted only to be served. Your teaching showed us how to care for each other in the world, with your love and peace. In our today, help us by your example to share those things you taught us in service to all whom we meet in our lives.

Amen

We pray that through the power of Christ and in love and unity with each other we may be enabled to:

- **support, promote and strengthen marriage;**
- **help families to explore and enjoy faith together;**
- **build a Christian community that is grounded in faith and love;**
- **support all forms of family life;**
- **help those facing adversity.**

“How lavish is our God! We celebrate his generosity to us with thankful hearts”.



The Thursday Prayer is prepared and published by the Praying our Faith Team of Ely Diocese Mothers' Union. Please feel free to photocopy as many booklets as you need for your branch/ group's use.

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Ely

Registered Charity No. 251394