

Please pray for our church family	
Mon	Maureen Taylor & David
Tue	Katie Terrett
Wed	John & Jane Tibangu and family
Thurs	Doreen Titcombe
Fri	Joan Titcombe
Sat	Barbara Tonkin
Sun	Tom & Heather Vandamme and family

Please Pray

For Swindon Filling Station, Swindon Night Shelter, Threshold Housing Link and other local charities reaching out to Swindon's homeless in these difficult winter months.

For compassion, understanding and unity within the church, so we can be an effective witness to the world.

For peace to come in the areas of conflict in our world.



**Sunday
21st Jan
Epiphany 3**



... continued from overleaf

to amplify the voices of those who feel forsaken.

In this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity the Church is being challenged to stop and tend to the wounded and, in so doing, to recognise our own wounds as churches and as communities. Facing the reality of our own brokenness helps to connect us to the suffering of others from a place of humility and deep empathy, creating a sacred space of encounter inspired by Christ's healing love.

Services for Next Sunday			
28th Jan Epiphany 4	9am	Holy Communion	Tom Morgan
	11am	Holy Communion	

Time	Service	Sermon	Readings
9.00 am	Morning Praise	Sally Robertson	Revelation 19:6-10 John 2:1-11
11.00 am	Holy Communion		

Notices for next week's bulletin to the Parish Office by Wednesday 9am please

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January each year. Resources are provided for Christians of all nations and denominations to read and pray each day. This year in Swindon, we will have a service to enable Christians from different churches across North Swindon to come together and worship, on

Sunday 21st January at 6pm

at the church building in Abbey Meads Village Centre (formerly Christ the Servant) Elstree Way, SN25 4YX

Prayer and reflection resources for the week (for 2024, prepared by an ecumenical team from Burkina Faso in West Africa) are available on this link

<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2024/>

Dr Nicola Brady, General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland writes:

The parable of the Good Samaritan is one of the best known passages of Scripture, yet one that never seems to lose its power to challenge indifference to suffering and to inspire solidarity. It is a story about crossing boundaries that calls our attention to the bonds that unite the whole human family. In choosing this passage of Scripture for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the churches of Burkina Faso have invited us to join with them in a process of self-reflection as they consider what it means to love our neighbour in the midst of a security crisis. Communities in the British-Irish context may be less vulnerable to acts of mass violence than in Burkina Faso, but there are still many living with the memory and/or the threat of serious violence, centred on issues of identity and belonging. There are also groups within communities, including people from ethnic minority backgrounds and people seeking asylum, who feel particularly vulnerable to violence or being displaced by the threat of violence.

Our neighbours in Burkina Faso call us to reconnect to God's dream for us – a dream of a unity formed of ties of love and compassion. This challenges us not only to reflect on the learning from our ecumenical journey so far, but to

*'Who is
my
neighbour?'*



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18th to 25th January 2024



widen our vision. What can we learn from people of other faiths, from those whose backgrounds are most different from our own, and what do we need from each other? The reflections encourage us to consider the perspective not only of the one who showed mercy, but also of those who passed by. Many of us will have been unaware of the threat faced by communities in Burkina Faso before reading this material. It is a powerful reminder of the many neglected conflicts that continue to destroy lives and devastate communities around the world, when only a limited number can capture, and fewer still can hold, the attention of the world's media. The Church is called to be an advocate for those caught in these forgotten conflicts, and

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