

On All Saints Day the Archbishops wrote to all clergy in the Church of England as follows:

“Bearing in mind our primary vocation as the Church of Jesus Christ to pray and to serve we call upon the Church of England to make this month of lockdown a month of prayer. More than anything else, we know that we are in the faithful hands of the risen Christ who knows our weaknesses, tiredness and struggles and whose steadfast love endures for ever.

Above all we recall people to some of the fundamental spiritual disciplines that shape our Christian life. How we do this is up to each congregation and clergy person.

The Archbishops, together with the House of Bishops, decided that, during this second lockdown this call would take this form:

- An invitation to every Christian and person of good will to pray at 6pm every day, beginning this Thursday 5 November. In order to stimulate this time of prayer churches are encouraged, where possible, to ring a single bell at 6pm.
- An invitation to fast in a way appropriate to you every Thursday, as well as pray for our nation, its leaders, its health and essential services and all who suffer.

This call is going far and wide – and the hope is that many of our ecumenical partners will join us.

The Archbishops promised some resources in the form of different styles of written prayers with a particular thematic focus for prayer each day. The weblink to the resources is <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/call-prayer-nation>.

In addition, please find here a direct link to a simple printable prayer booklet which is intended to be shared with members of your congregation - [Prayer Booklet](#).

This material is intended simply as one tool to enable participation. The hope is that individuals and worshipping communities make these times of prayer their own. There is no desire to be directive in this – rather simply to encourage all to be united in Prayer for the Nation.

Please forgive the brevity and immediacy of this. It has all been put together from a standing start.



Yours in the service of Christ,
The Revd Canon Chris Russell
Archbishop of Canterbury's Advisor for Evangelism & Witness