Diocesan Day of Prayer, 30 June 2022

As a diocese, nation and world we face many challenges: thinking about what it means to emerge from, or live with, Covid; concerns about the rising cost of living, the reduction in the number of stipendiary clergy and the threat of Climate Change.

We are also at a time of transition: some of that transition is linked to the way in which we respond to the challenges, but we are also anticipating with joy the arrival of our new diocesan bishop, Bishop Michael.

So let us bring our hopes and fears to God in prayer – joining together across the diocese. You may want to use the Four Points of Prayer leaflet (insert link) or simply use some or all of the prayers and sentences below with your church, PCC or as part of your usual pattern of worship.

Blessing:

*‘Bless the Lord my soul, and do not forget all his benefits!’ Psalm 103*

*Reflecting on the blessings we have received:*

Faithful and generous God, our help in ages past, and our hope for years to come, we rejoice that you bless us with so much that is good … We thank you for all that we see you doing and ask your blessing on all that we seek to do in your name. Amen

Challenge:

*‘ We are afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair’ Romans 8*

*Reflecting on the challenges we are seeing or experiencing:*

Lord, as we reflect on the challenges we face, and that we see others facing, we ask you to help us to remember that you are present and that we can do all things through the strength that comes from you. We pray that you will send people to work alongside us in the building of your kingdom and that we will have the grace to work alongside those you send. Amen

Sendingout into the future:

**Loving God, though our destination is not yet clear,**

**May we trust in your graceful promises;**

**Though we are uncertain of ourselves,**

**May we be rooted in your loving regard;**

**Though our attention is inclinded to wander,**

**May we hear the things you are saying;**

**Though we often neglect your influence,**

**May we be convicted of your power to change,**

**In Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**