

Thames Valley Circuit Prayer Diary

“Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.” Matthew 21²² (NRSV)

Following the Covid restrictions and changes within the circuit, the decision has been taken not to produce a prayer diary for the time being.

However, please do include our circuit, its churches and its presbyters in your personal prayers.

A prayer for the Queen

We remember our Queen as she celebrates her 70 years on the throne. We give thanks for her dedication to this country and the Commonwealth, her deep Christian faith and her unflinching devotion to duty. We pray for God’s blessing on her and her family during this year of celebration.

The Political and Economic crisis in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is experiencing its worst economic crisis since becoming independent in 1948. The government has insufficient foreign currency to import essentials such as food, petrol, cooking gas and medicines, and there are severe shortages. Waiting in queues has become normal, and rising inflation means that basic items have become too expensive for many people to afford. In the light of the anger and frustration which have led to public protests, the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka has called for action on the part of those in power, and non-violent approaches from both the protesters and the authorities.

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have offered this statement of support and solidarity in response:

Over the past weeks we have seen the reports of the situation in Sri Lanka as the country has experienced economic collapse on top of the social disruption brought about by the Covid crisis. We have noted with concern the sufferings of the Sri Lankan people as soaring inflation has led to unaffordable prices of basic goods and shortages of foods, medicines and fuel.

In response to the appeal from the Methodist Church, Sri Lanka pertaining to the current situation, and in the face of the growing anger and political unrest in Sri Lanka, we join in calling for calm attempts to reach peaceful solutions, and in affirming the need for all individuals to treat others with care and love.

The Methodist Church in Britain values the partnership of the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka. We stand in solidarity with them at this time of economic and political crisis, and support them in their appeals for solutions according to democratic principles. We join them in their

call for non-violent action and dignified treatment of other people, both on the part of protesters, and on the part of the authorities when dealing with peaceful protests.

Please hold the leadership and members of the Methodist Church Sri Lanka in our prayers.

The President and Vice-President of the Conference

Revd Sonia Hicks and Barbara Easton