



# praying for world mission

## St Andrew's Tide

### MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

In 1871 John Patteson, Bishop of Melanesia, visited the Island of Nukapu in the Pacific Ocean. Prior to his visit a group of white men had arrived at the island, feigned friendship and captured five young people to sell into slavery. With local tempers high, Bishop Patteson prepared to land to comfort the islanders. Later that afternoon a canoe returned from the island with the bishop's dead body in it. The uncle of the five kidnapped youths had vowed to kill the first white man to set foot on the island; Bishop Patteson was that man.

The bishop's death was not only instrumental in the abolition of slavery in the Pacific but also provided the impetus for one of my predecessor's, Archbishop Tait, to designate an annual day of prayer at St Andrew's Tide for the mission work of the Church throughout the world.

This year's day of prayer comes at the end of a year dominated by conflict across the world. It therefore seems most appropriate that the theme of this year's resource leaflet is reconciliation. If we turn our attention again to the Anglican presence in Melanesia, we are reminded how Christian witness in situations of conflict can involve risk and acute personal cost. As recently as August this year, six missionaries from the Anglican order of the Melanesian Brotherhood were killed while being held hostage by a rebel leader.

I encourage parishes and individuals to continue this tradition of prayer around St Andrew's Tide (November 28th) praying for God's mission in the world and for the continuing work of the Anglican mission agencies.

*† Rowan Cantuar :*



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## THOUGHTS ON ST ANDREW

**"We would see Jesus!"**

[John 12: 20-26]

From the little we know Andrew was...

a fisherman content to work in the family business  
one of the first disciples, but not part of the inner  
group of Jesus' confidants  
not a powerful personality, rather in the shadow of his brother  
a follower rather than a leader  
loyal and tenacious  
an implementer rather than an initiator...

...rather like a lot of us.

But we can also see...

a man able to make connections... who appreciated in some measure the energy that flows from the right people meeting... willing to stay in the background himself. The "first missionary", as we say, was a networker. Most crucially he knew that the most vital networking involved getting people into contact with Jesus.

Maybe it was obvious to introduce his brother to Jesus. It was less obvious, or acceptable, to make the connection when some Greeks, intrigued by this Jewish rabbi, asked if they could see Jesus. What could be the point of such a meeting? Could it do other than end in offence or frustration? It was Andrew who took the risk and brought the men to Jesus. The first cross-cultural missionary perhaps.

The meeting was far more strategic than Andrew could have dreamt of. So far there had only been hints that Jesus' significance reached beyond Jewish borders, that his message had global import. So what possible relevance could this meeting have? For Jesus, however, the enquiry of Greeks that they might see him, triggered a profound reflection on the significance of his coming sufferings. The hunger of the Gentile world seems to have borne in on him powerfully at this point.

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified... Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies it bears much fruit."

William Temple described Andrew's initiative to take Peter to meet Jesus as "perhaps... as great a service to the Church as ever any man did." The same could be said of Andrew's initiative in taking the Greeks to Jesus. And that potential is always there when we take the risk, one that might come to nothing, or be thrown back in our face, to introduce people to Jesus. We may never know the hunger we are tapping into and the potential of the encounter that results.

*Andrew Wheeler  
St. Saviour's Church, Guildford*



## COLLECTS FOR ST ANDREW'S TIDE

Everliving God

your apostle Andrew obeyed the call of your Son  
and followed him without delay;  
grant that we like him may give ourselves readily  
to do what you command;  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Jesus when you call

May we like Andrew leave our nets,  
Our home, our everything, to follow you.

*A New Zealand Prayer Book*

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## MEDITATION ON THE THEME OF RECONCILIATION

World events enable us to reflect on the bigger picture. When this picture does not look positive, it is all too easy to become cynical and stand still. Yet reconciliation is about transformation and hope. It is about believing even in the midst of suffering or great tragedy.

These reflections explore different aspects of reconciliation – local, national and global; from the depths of the heart to the power of forgiveness.

### 1. RECONCILED WITH GOD

*'I will betroth you to myself for ever, bestowing righteousness and justice, loyalty and love...'*

*[Hosea 2:19]*

The most important relationship we have is with God. It is central to our being and needs to be nourished daily. We have a responsibility to God and to ourselves, to show how much His grace and our love actually mean. Christ is the reconciler who steps into the middle between God and the world and takes upon himself the reality of the human condition. He becomes the bridge of reconciliation.

*'God answers for Godlessness, love for hatred, the saint for the sinner, until there is no Godlessness, no hatred, no sin which God has not carried, suffered and atoned.'*

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

**How can we deepen our relationship with God?**

## 2. RECONCILED WITH THE WORLD

*'It is all God's work; he reconciled us to himself through Christ and he gave us the ministry of reconciliation.'*

[2 Corinthians 5:18]

Wherever we live we are vulnerable and this can lead to fear and insecurity. As long as we choose to live as individuals and not as communities we can never be free from fear. We must stop being afraid of the unknown neighbour, our real enemy is often our own mistrust.

*'True reconciliation... means taking sides on behalf of the weak and the downtrodden, the voiceless ones. We cannot be neutral in situations of injustice and oppression and exploitation.'*

Desmond Tutu

**What do we need to do to break down barriers between people and nations?**

## 3. RECONCILED WITH ONE ANOTHER

*'Be generous to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgives you.'*

[Ephesians 4: 32]

To be reconciled with one another we have to see Christ in the other person. And that requires understanding and openness. We have to take time to listen and to pray with one another. Only through listening and praying can we truly open our hearts. Only in that openness can we become Christ to one another.

*'Let us not despair. Let us not lose faith in man and certainly not in God. We must believe that a prejudiced mind can be changed, and that man, by the grace of God, can be lifted from the valley of hate to the high mountain of love.'*

Martin Luther King

**How can we respect differences in faith and culture across the world?**

## 4. RECONCILED WITH OURSELVES

*'In the abundance of his glory may he, through his Spirit, enable you to grow firm in power with regard to your inner self, so that Christ may live in your hearts...'*

[Ephesians 3: 16-17]

Accepting who we are is one of the most liberating gifts we can give ourselves but it is also one of the hardest. What will it take to accept 'me'?

*'We are born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone...'*

Nelson Mandela

**How can we learn to love and forgive ourselves?**

## 5. RECONCILED WITH THE EARTH

*'In the beginning God created heaven and earth.'*

[Genesis 1:1]

The earth is not here for unlimited pleasure or at the expense of other people's lives. It is a fragile means to living in God's hands. We do not have rights over the earth, but gratitude that we can share in its abundance.

*'To be hungry is not to have had what you need to live; to be thirsty is to be trapped in a body that has become a burden.'*

Rowan Williams

**How can we be more responsible in how we use our living resources?**

## 6. RECONCILED WITH PEACE

*'If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends...'*

[Romans 12: 18-19]

Restorative and retributive justice depend on different approaches. The first emphasises holistic forgiveness, the second punishment and revenge. If we are to live in harmony, we have to pursue peaceful ways of resolving issues so that healing not anger can flourish.

*'Forgiveness is the highest form of forgetting because it is forgetting in spite of remembering.'*

Paul Tillich

**How can we be at peace with those with whom we disagree?**

Fleur Dorrell

Head of Prayer and Spirituality, The Mothers' Union

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## **FURTHER PRAYERS**

The fruit of SILENCE is prayer  
The fruit of PRAYER is faith  
The fruit of FAITH is love  
The fruit of LOVE is service  
The fruit of SERVICE is peace.

*Mother Teresa*

### **Living the reconciliation God offers**

Holy God,  
Compassionate One,  
Reconciler,  
in Jesus you free us from estrangement and despair;  
Show us how to live that reconciliation -  
at one with your creation,  
at one with each other,  
at one with ourselves,  
because you have made us at one with you.

### **Working in the cause of reconciliation**

God of every time and place,  
you take pleasure in reconciling all things to yourself:  
Forgive our failures to live that peace so costly won by the cross.  
Where intolerance rules,  
where fear distorts,  
where division mars,  
may we bring to birth communities of reconciliation -  
alive to your Spirit  
and eager in your service,  
that all people may take pleasure in your blessings.

### **Recognising how deep is the need of reconciliation**

Peace-maker God,  
we hold in our prayers the places of hurt in our world -  
wherever war kills, maims and brutalises;  
wherever poverty destroys, stunts, and agonises;  
wherever hostility corrupts, disfigures, and abuses;  
wherever disease vexes, wrecks, and deprives;  
wherever despair stultifies, embitters, and ruins.  
All these, and more, we hold in our prayers,  
conscious of our ignorance and feeble effort,  
but knowing that your will is restoration and peace.  
Direct us to seek your will in all things,  
that the work of reconciliation you have entrusted to us  
may overturn human bitterness and hurt.

### **To be reconciled to creation**

Creator God,  
we look for new beginnings  
that humankind might cherish and guard this good earth,  
rejoicing in it as your gift.  
Stir our delight in the created world  
until it spills over into determination to nurture and guard your gift.  
In Christ you have made us a new creation,  
give us the vision to live as those in harmony with your first creation.

*Christopher Burkett  
Chaplain to the Bishop of Chester*

## A LITANY OF RECONCILIATION

### All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God

The hatred which divides nation from nation,  
race from race, class  
from class

### Father forgive

The covetous desires of people and  
nations to possess what is not their own

### Father forgive

The greed which exploits the work  
of human hands and lays waste the earth

### Father forgive

Our envy of the welfare and  
happiness of others

### Father forgive

Our indifference to the plight of  
the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee

### Father forgive

The lust which dishonours the  
bodies of men, women and children

### Father forgive

The pride that leads us to trust in  
ourselves and not in God

### Father forgive

be kind to one another,  
tenderhearted, forgiving one  
another, as God in Christ forgave you

*This litany, from Coventry Cathedral, is used every Friday lunchtime at a service for reconciliation held in the bombed ruins of the old cathedral. It is used in this leaflet with their permission.*

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*Produced with the help of the World Mission Agencies  
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with the Archbishops' Council in*

#### **PARTNERSHIP FOR WORLD MISSION (PWM)**

Partnership House, 157 Waterloo Road,  
London SE1 8XA  
Telephone: 020 7803 3201

This leaflet can be obtained, on request, as a PDF or *text only* attachment from  
**[pwm@c-of-e.org.uk](mailto:pwm@c-of-e.org.uk)** and at **[www.pwm-web.org.uk](http://www.pwm-web.org.uk)**

Further worship resources on reconciliation can also be found on  
**[www.invitationtoprayer.org.uk](http://www.invitationtoprayer.org.uk)**

**For further information contact anyone of the  
11 mission agency members of PWM,  
Partnership for World Mission**



**CHURCH ARMY (INTERNATIONAL WORK)**

Marlowe House, 109 Station Road, Sidcup, Kent DA15 7AD  
Telephone 020 8309 9991 *Registered charity number 226226*  
[www.churcharmy.org.uk](http://www.churcharmy.org.uk)



**THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY AMONG JEWISH PEOPLE (CMJ)**

30c Clarence Road, St Albans, Herts AL1 4JJ  
Telephone 01727 833114 *Registered Charity number 228519*  
[www.cmj.org.uk](http://www.cmj.org.uk)



**CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY (CMS)**

Partnership House, 157 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UU  
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[www.cms-uk.org](http://www.cms-uk.org)



**CHURCH PASTORAL AID SOCIETY (CPAS)**

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[www.ics-uk.org](http://www.ics-uk.org)



**THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS**

St Michael Paternoster Royal, College Hill, London EC4R 2RL  
Telephone 020 7248 5202 *Registered charity number 212432*  
[www.missiontoseafarers.org](http://www.missiontoseafarers.org)



**MOTHERS UNION (INTERNATIONAL WORK)**

The Mary Sumner House, 24 Tuffon Street, London SW1P 3RB  
Telephone 020 7222 5533 *Registered charity number 240531*  
[www.themothersunion.org](http://www.themothersunion.org)



**SOUTH AMERICAN MISSION SOCIETY (SAMS)**

Allen Gardiner House, 12 Fox Hill, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 4AG  
Telephone 0121 472 2616 *Registered charity number 221328*  
[www.samsgb.org](http://www.samsgb.org)



**THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE (SPCK)**

Holy Trinity Church, Marylebone Road, London NW1 4DU  
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[www.spck.org.uk](http://www.spck.org.uk)



**UNITED SOCIETY FOR THE PROPOGATION OF THE GOSPEL (USPG)**

Partnership House, 157 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8XA  
Telephone 020 7928 8681 *Registered charity number 234518*  
[www.uspg.org.uk](http://www.uspg.org.uk)