



THY KINGDOM COME

# 2020 Impact Report

***‘Let us ask the Spirit for the gift of unity,  
for only if we live as brothers and sisters  
can we spread the spirit of fraternity.’***

His Holiness Pope Francis

## SECTION A: INTRODUCTION

For the last five years Thy Kingdom Come has galvanised Christians from across the world to pray for more people to come to faith in Christ, from Ascension to Pentecost.

Initially an invitation to the Church of England by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, it soon spread to become a global and ecumenical call to prayer.

Thy Kingdom Come this year was radically revamped due to COVID-19. Despite the uncertainty of the season, millions of Christians bowed their knees and lifted their voices in prayer.

### KEY HEADLINES OVERALL:

- Christians in nearly 90% of countries worldwide participated. New countries this year included Central African Republic, Chad, Cuba, and the Maldives.
- Christians from across denominations and traditions participated, with many stating TKC exemplifies ecumenism in action. This year’s Pentecost service included contributions from His Holiness Pope Francis, Archbishop Justin Welby, Pastor Agu Irukwu, Archbishop Angaelos, and Thelma Commey. Worship was led by Matt Redman.
- Incredible testimonies of people coming to faith, churches, families and individuals being drawn closer to God, being reinvigorated in their prayer life and inspired to share their faith.
- From traditional liturgy to more modern resources, we produced a wide range of resources for different denominations and traditions. These were translated into many languages, including Finnish, Maori, Gaelic and Korean to name a few reflecting the increasing reach and appeal of Thy Kingdom Come.
- Digital resources – including the Family Prayer Adventure Map & App (FPM), the TKC app and Prayer Journal were incredibly well received because of COVID-19. Both apps included daily videos, reflections, podcasts with the FPM using the latest in augmented reality.
- Thy Kingdom Come videos have been viewed millions of times. Highlights this year included the Pentecost service and music videos of such as Pete James’s ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ set to the tune of Tell out my Soul, children’s song ‘Oh Wow (Awesome God)’, and Matt Redman & Friends’ ‘Amazing Grace’, which was featured on Songs of Praise.
- Youth participation increased significantly this year, with lots of native content being created by young people for their peers.
- Thy Kingdom Come continues to engage Christians across age, tradition, and churchmanship. This is in part due to the simplicity of the ask.

**91% PRAYING  
FOR FRIENDS  
AND FAMILY  
MEMBERS**

**99% OF WANT  
TO BE INVOLVED  
NEXT YEAR**

### KEY 2020 SURVEY FINDINGS\*:

- 91% of those taking part were praying for friends and family members to come to know Jesus, with nearly 2/3 (64%) of those planning to follow up or talk to the people they were praying for.
- 28% of respondents took part for the first time this year.
- 99% of those involved want to be involved next year.

*\*(based on the responses of 2090 people)*

*‘For the past two years, many local churches have joined in this prayer movement - and we feel a very strong move in the Spirit in our region in Australia, with TKC being a significant part of that. God is at work here for sure, and prayer is essential to this.’*

# SECTION B: HOW DID TKC ADAPT THIS YEAR?

Thy Kingdom Come was radically revamped this year due to COVID-19. Normally characterised by mass public gatherings and worship, it completely changed shape, yet the heart remained the same – praying for people to know the love of Jesus Christ.

As a result, the ‘Pray for five’ element of the campaign was reinforced, a call to action that has endured since TKC began, and that continues to resonate with Christians worldwide. And in response to the crisis, a new theme, ‘Prayer and Care’, was introduced encouraging Christians to move beyond prayer into action, practically demonstrating love and care through service to others during this time.

Christians worldwide responded in the most amazing ways to both elements of the campaign.

‘Thy Kingdom Come under Lockdown’ resources were produced to enable churches, families and individuals to pray and worship in their homes suitable for use worldwide. Most of these resources were digital.

Across the board, we aimed for TKC to be simple, easily accessible, relevant and adaptable ensuring all Christians – irrespective of age, denomination or location – could be involved.

## ‘PRAY FOR 5’

Christians worldwide committed to praying for five friends, family, or neighbours to know the life-transforming love of Jesus, and did this in various ways.

In Sri Lanka, the diocese of Colombo distributed hundreds of ‘Pray for 5’ cards in English, Tamil and Sinhala to their congregations. The diocese of Coventry, in England, ran a #pray4five social media campaign, whilst others prayed for five people working on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic, using the pray for five bands and cards.

For many, the ‘Pray for 5’ focus provided much-needed structure during this time. It also gave many an impetus to move beyond prayer to sharing their faith.

There have been lots of wonderful prayer testimonies. For example, one individual who prayed for their five during the 11 days, decided to pray for them in silence on Day 10, inspired by theme. They were surprised when God gave them a specific word for each person in this time. Encouraged by this, they shared a specific message with one of the five people, and it witnessed profoundly to them. This experience not only developed confidence in the Christian to share their faith with others, but also let



the person being prayed for know that they are known and loved by God.

We have been greatly encouraged by stories of people who have come to faith, who were being prayed for.

Many who took part not only prayed but also reached out to their five during the 11 days, from inviting them to watch the Pentecost Service online, to calling them or sending a card.

Many who took part are committing to pray for their five well beyond the 11 days such as in the Rutana Diocese, Burundi where many who participated are now considering praying for five on a monthly basis.

*‘Although I do the daily office it was good to centre my prayers for that one hour, specifically on those five people. It gave me confidence to speak to one lady who has been on my prayer list for some time, and she gave her life to the Lord yesterday.’*



*‘There have been lots of wonderful prayer testimonies.*

*‘As we pray ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ – for the fifth year as a nationwide, and now worldwide, season of prayer for people to come to a living faith in Jesus Christ – again I am bringing my ‘five’ to God: the five for whom I am praying that they will know the abundant life that is in Jesus Christ. It has been a joy each year to see friends encountering Jesus Christ and beginning a new life.*

*‘This year because of COVID-19 so many people are searching for meaning and hope, as well as discovering afresh the importance of real, self-sacrificial love. May the Holy Spirit equip us all to share that love, and to speak of Jesus Christ, and of the love of God our Father. Come, Holy Spirit!’*

Dr John Sentamu (Former Archbishop of York)



**‘PRAYER AND CARE’**

COVID-19 created a whole new dimension to Thy Kingdom Come. Participants not only prayed for others to know the love of Christ, but they also demonstrated their love and care practically, inspired by the book of Acts.

Across the world, Christians were already on the frontline volunteering and caring for the most vulnerable during the pandemic; however, ‘Prayer and Care’ was an invitation to extend this – to do an act of service for those they were praying or caring for.

Churches, families and individuals demonstrated care in the most amazing ways. From organising a community food larder for people in need to baking brownies and delivering them with handwritten prayers to prison chaplains. From distributing food packages to those in need to collecting medication for those in isolation. From sending a card or gift to making a phone call to check in, there were so many practical ways people were cared for.

*‘I am keen to look for opportunities to demonstrate kindness and care to my relatives.’*

In Cape Town, South Africa, NewDay United, a Christian organisation delivered food parcels to those affected by COVID-19 in townships. Due to the demand, they paused their health and education programmes to deliver food, praying every six steps, (inspired by 2 Samuel 6:13) for those that would receive the parcels to encounter love of Jesus.

In Canada, Diocese of Toronto – St Michael and All Angels, have run the Beeton cupboard for decades and have seen demand go up in response to COVID-19. During the 11 days they put together food packages to distribute to those in need as part of ‘Prayer and Care’.

*‘I have bought a book for a neighbour. I am trying to show care to neighbours by talking and offering help. I plan to continue putting words on our large front window according to the church calendar. On Pentecost we had, ‘Happy Pentecost, the Comforter has come.’*



Thelma Commey volunteering at the Whitechapel (Homeless) Mission.

*‘It’s been an odd year, but ‘Prayer and Care’ has been key. As part of the outreach that we do as a Salvation Army Corps, church members created prayer cards, prayer bracelets and hand-held crosses that we placed inside food parcels and baby boxes etc, as we went out to help those struggling in the community...’*



Pete James and daughter delivering food to an elderly couple in isolation.

**UPPER ROOM:**

This year, we collaborated with international prayer movement, 24-7 Prayer, to provide virtual prayer rooms for churches who would normally gather their congregations for continuous prayer in person.

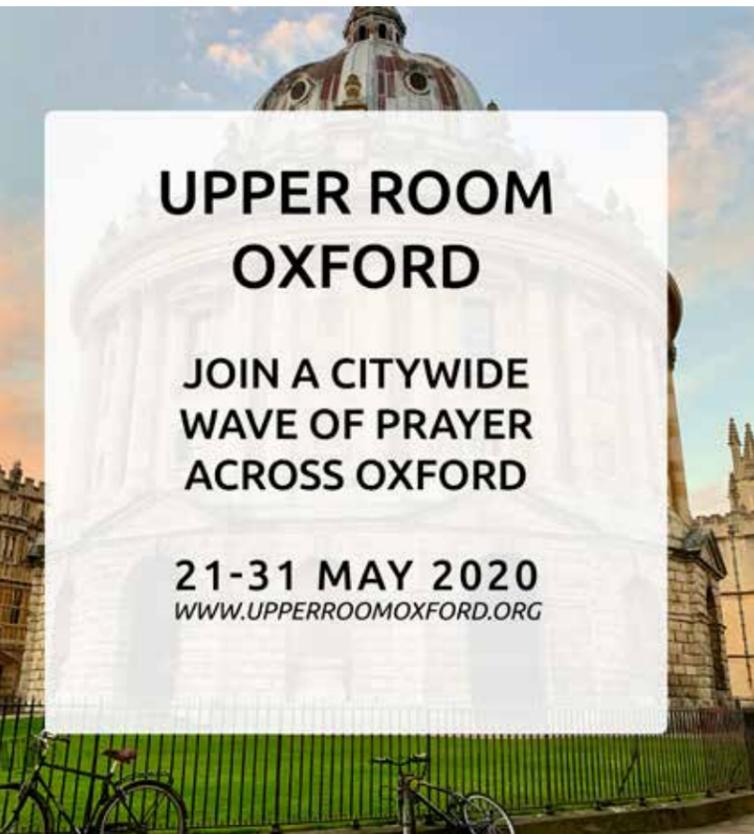


Inspired by the upper room experience in the book of Acts, where the early disciples gathered to pray, this timely resource reimagined continuous prayer in a digital space, enabling deeper periods of prayer – drawing on the richness of this historic tradition.

Churches that had previously planned Beacon or continuous prayer events used the Virtual Upper Room to facilitate ecumenical, citywide, corporate continuous prayer events which happened in places such as Oxford and Manchester, UK. Many reported seeing more people involved and from further afield as a result of going online.

*‘Whilst our plans for a public gathering in St Ann’s Square had to be changed, we hosted an online prayer sign up for people to cover every hour of the full 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come in prayer. With more people signed up than hours in each of those days, across Greater Manchester we co-ordinated 330 hours of prayer. May we continue to #pray4five throughout the year to come.’*

Graham Baker  
Ecumenical Facilitator  
Greater Manchester Churches Together



**UPPER ROOM  
OXFORD**

**JOIN A CITYWIDE  
WAVE OF PRAYER  
ACROSS OXFORD**

**21-31 MAY 2020**  
[WWW.UPPERROOMOXFORD.ORG](http://WWW.UPPERROOMOXFORD.ORG)

*‘We felt that this was an important time for Christians across Oxford to gather together online to pray for the city. Working with churches leaders from all denominations, and inspired by the TKC national initiative, we set up a virtual upper room for the city. We were thrilled and encouraged to have over 200 people from at least 27 churches/congregations across Oxford join for prayer for 245 hours. Praise God!’*

Reverend James Dwyer, Curate, St Andrews, and coordinator of the Upper Room, Oxford



**'FOCUS ON DIGITAL':**

Thy Kingdom Come had to go largely online. This meant a focus on developing digital resources and other ways for people to engage online – as individuals, as a family and as worshipping communities.

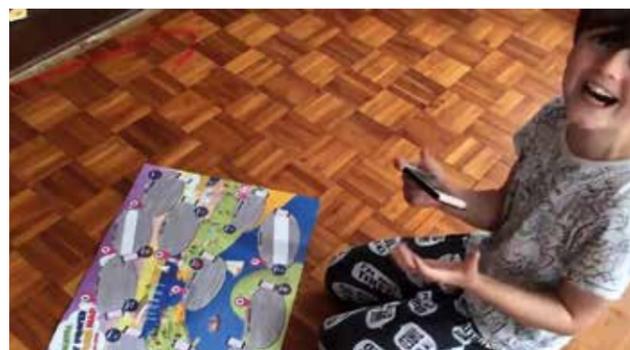


*'The adventure prayer maps were a brilliant way of inviting fringe families to engage in prayer at home.'*



*'Our (Methodist) Circuit children's worker, with the help of a grant, made up boxes of crafts related to the Digital Adventure map, one for each day. They were hand-delivered to over 50 families, 26 from our Junior Church. They have been so appreciated. Folk have been sending in photos to put on Facebook page to show their appreciation.'*

The app and map were accessed thousands of times worldwide. The videos were viewed across multiple platforms more than 250,000 times and in more than 105 nations including Jordan, Russia, Zambia, Benin and Sweden.



*'My grandson is highly intelligent and on the autistic spectrum. He really loves the Prayer Adventure Map.'*

**Digital Family Prayer Adventure Map & App:** This year's flagship family resource enabled children and young people worldwide to explore prayer in a fun way. The map (which could be ordered or printed at home) was packed full of activities based on the daily themes of Thy Kingdom

Come and was brought to life through an augmented reality app with bonus digital content. This included Bible story animations and video reflections from well-known Christians including Archbishop Justin Welby, CBeebies' presenter Gemma Hunt, Guvna B, Eye Can Talk author Jonathan Bryan, author of the Jesus Storybook Bible Sally Lloyd Jones and Storyteller Philip Glassborow. The printed map was originally intended to

be distributed to half a million key stage 2 children across CofE and Methodist schools in England and Wales, which we hope to do in 2021 instead. A version was created so families could print the resource at home. Families used this resource worldwide and found it to be an incredible blessing, especially given the lockdown.

*'At a tough time, the Family Prayer Adventure map was a great way of connecting, engaging, and blessing families that we have contact with and more who we are starting to reach, as well as keeping in touch with our schools.'*



**TKC APP:**

The Award-winning app, packed full of daily videos, Bible readings, prayers and reflections, scriptures and podcasts from NT Wright were downloaded thousands of times in almost 100 countries. The app has been translated into eight languages.



**BRINGING DAILY HOPE TO THOSE OFFLINE**

The TKC team were instrumental in getting the Daily Hope line launched in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; to bring comfort, hope, and joy to the most vulnerable and isolated, especially the older generation and those without internet.

Daily Hope offers services, prayers, hymns, and reflections and is a freephone number.

In the first six months, it received over a quarter of a million calls and had three million minutes used. It continues to be a great source of hope and joy to many.

*'Thank you so much for the Hope telephone line. I have two friends who I was able to pass this on to. One is blind, so this kind of service is helping to cheer her through these difficult times. The other has depression and can't concentrate to read so I am hopeful this will be a great help to her.'*



## SECTION C: HOW DID PEOPLE TAKE PART IN THY KINGDOM COME AROUND THE WORLD?

Christians have participated in Thy Kingdom Come in various ways, adapting to suit their context. For example: dioceses and churches have taken the themes of TKC and created their own reflections and resources, tailoring it for their own audiences; making the global local, and making the general personal. Others still, changed the daily themes altogether yet retained the essence of TKC: prayer for evangelism and effective witness.

This period of prayer is typically associated with churches organising mass public gatherings, from Beacon Events to worship concerts or pilgrimages. However, at short notice, these events – often months, possibly a year in the making – transitioned to online gatherings.

### Reimagining Community:

Although Christians could not physically gather together, churches found unique ways of reimagining community both on and offline.

Overnight churches had to reimagine and plan their big annual events. Despite the difficulties in doing this, a number of organisers reported reaching more people online with their events than they would have done in person.

*'We were planning our annual Mothers' Union Thy Kingdom Come Service at Coventry Cathedral until lockdown. Then we produced an online service which probably reached many more members worldwide and, because of its format, we were able to include contributions from all over the world. We also had contributions from Archbishop Justin and the Very Revd. Bob Key. In many ways this all made the service better and more accessible!'*

*Catherine Kyte, Mothers Union*

Numerous churches held online prayer meetings throughout the 11 days at regular times of the day – be it morning, noon or at night. In some instances, they also teamed up with other churches to do this – locally and

internationally and from different denominations to host daily online services with different churches taking it in turns to lead.

Churches also set up or used existing online/mobile networks to share TKC content to inspire prayer via WhatsApp or similar. This was also common amongst individuals who shared content with their contacts, such as posting videos and reflections in their local community COVID-19 WhatsApp groups.

Where people would normally gather outside for celebrations, prayer walks or praying in the town centre – it happened online and to a lesser extent offline, in accordance with government guidance. For example, the Diocese of Sheffield hosted virtual prayer walks for those shielding, and socially distanced ones for those able to attend.

Christians engaged creatively with TKC despite the restrictions in other ways. For example, some people reported using their one-hour allowance outdoors to do a prayer walk – engaging with nature, praying for their local community, and sharing these experiences on social media to inspire others.

Civic spaces were also reimagined with numerous examples of Christians beautifying their local town centres as visual examples of joy and hope in times of crisis. For example, people posted ribbon prayers on gates outside churches or in village centres. Others chalked positive messages & prayers on the street to bring light in their communities.

Some churches and cathedrals transformed their outdoor spaces into prayer gardens for 11 days or into sacred public spaces such as a socially distanced labyrinths, allowing people to engage in prayer even though church buildings were shut.

## PENTECOST SERVICE



On Pentecost Sunday, we hosted an online church service, broadcast as part of the Church of England's national service. The beautifully diverse service included contributions from senior Church leaders including His Holiness Pope Francis, Archbishop Justin Welby, Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, Pastor Agu Irukwo, Archbishop Angaelos, Thelma Commey, Down Syndrome advocate Heidi Crowter, and Ciaran McCabe. Worship was led by Matt Redman and St Martin's choirs.

It also featured a multi-language video version of The Lord's Prayer and prayers for the world led by young children.

*'The thing that really 'blew me away' was the Pentecost Service – so thoughtfully planned, such a wonderful reflection of God's intergenerational, multi-ethnic, inclusive, worldwide church.'*

*I loved the sense of unity and feeling connected with and part of God's one, worldwide church. Thank you to all involved.'*

**Light up the world:**

From Albania to Australia, Brazil to Israel, Mozambique to Finland, churches, families and individuals committed to lighting up the world in prayer and in deed (through acts of service). Here are some examples:

- **A church in England and Albania** – both committed to lighting up several cities in prayer in each of their nations.
- **Churches in Burundi** committed to lighting up the world in prayer, culminating in a special Pentecost service.
- A Christian charity **in Brazil** which supports vulnerable families especially around street children committed to lighting up their city, region, nation and world in prayer.
- Churches and dioceses **in Canada** committed to lighting up the world in prayer.
- Several churches **in Malta** – including Churches Together in Malta, took part in prayer.
- Christians **in Malaysia** joined in prayer, shining their light on the map webpage and praying together online.

Thousands across the world signed up to shine their light on the Thy kingdom Come website too, as this example shows:

*'A video was shown at Spring Harvest in Minehead in 2019. I was preparing to set off for the Outer Hebrides to serve the Lord (James 1:27) having sold my home and leaving my church family. In the video I looked at the Outer Hebrides and there was only one light lit – I felt compelled as I set out to bring God's light to the 'unlit' place where I was going to live. Within three months of being here, having shared the 'Thy Kingdom Come' website and spoken to many people, more and more lights appeared. This was less of a dark place – and God's light was beginning to break through.' Outer Hebrides, Scotland*

**Youth participation:**

There was significant visible youth participation this year. This included several groups of young people sharing their own Thy Kingdom Come reflections and prayers on the issues that mattered to them and their peers.

Others organised their own prayer meetings with support from youth workers or participated in churchwide

intergenerational prayer meetings (including continuous prayer) – reflecting an increased hunger to pray amongst young people.

This year's Methodist Youth President, Thelma Commey participated in several ways: from co-writing the Methodist Church Prayer Journal 'God Loves All' to starring in Day 6's #PrayFor video incorporating 'prayer and care' through her volunteering at Whitechapel Mission (homeless shelter).

In terms of resources, the prayer journal was the most popular amongst young people and was used and adapted by youth workers to facilitate prayer. Looking forward, we will produce additional TKC youth resources and build on the momentum of their involvement.



**Youth Participation at Pentecost:**

*The Pentecost Service included contributions from Downs Syndrome advocate, Heidi Crowter reading Psalm 139, Methodist Youth President, Thelma Commey reading from Isaiah 55 and Ciaran McCabe, reading from TKC's central passage, Acts 2 – the Coming of the Holy Spirit.*



*The Oadby Youth Project in Leicester: Young people shared daily reflections, scriptures and short times of prayer on issues including: finding faith; schools, young people, and deprivation; mental health; looking after others and equality – asking what would 'Thy Kingdom Come' look like in these areas. In addition to sharing these they also signposted links to resources for those needing additional support.*



### The Power of Music - TKC Anthems

Music was a big part of Thy Kingdom Come this year. Across the world, Christians sang unto the Lord as part of their church services (online and offline) for the 11 days.

Recognising the power of music to connect communities and draw people closer to God, worship leader Pete James once again blessed the campaign with a new anthem called 'Thy Kingdom Come' a re-written hymn set to the melody of Tell Out My Soul.

For the Pentecost service, Grammy Award-winning worship leader, Matt Redman & Friends recorded a moving version of the classic hymn Amazing Grace. The video featured singers from different churches across the UK, Makaton signers and many others. This was also broadcast on BBC One's Songs of Praise, later in the summer.

People also organised socially distanced street sing alongs, taking church to the streets. For example, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland organised outdoor hymn singalongs for Easter which many Christians continued to do for Pentecost Sunday.

*'Matt Redman led the music with sensitivity and skill, and I was profoundly moved by the rendering of Amazing Grace at the end of the service. I have shared it with many friends and family and they have also found it beautiful and moving.'*

*'I loved the music video "Thy Kingdom Come" with the young dad and his family and friends. It was very touching, and I sent it to friends and family.'*

*'The entire experience gave me a structure for my prayers, which I needed. The Pete James song became my introduction to my devotions. I felt I was able to concentrate on the people I was praying for and it gave me a real sense of purpose.'*



## SECTION D: IMPACT AND ENGAGEMENT

Christians in more than 170 countries participated this year – with several new countries making an appearance such as the Central African Republic, Chad, Cuba and the Maldives.

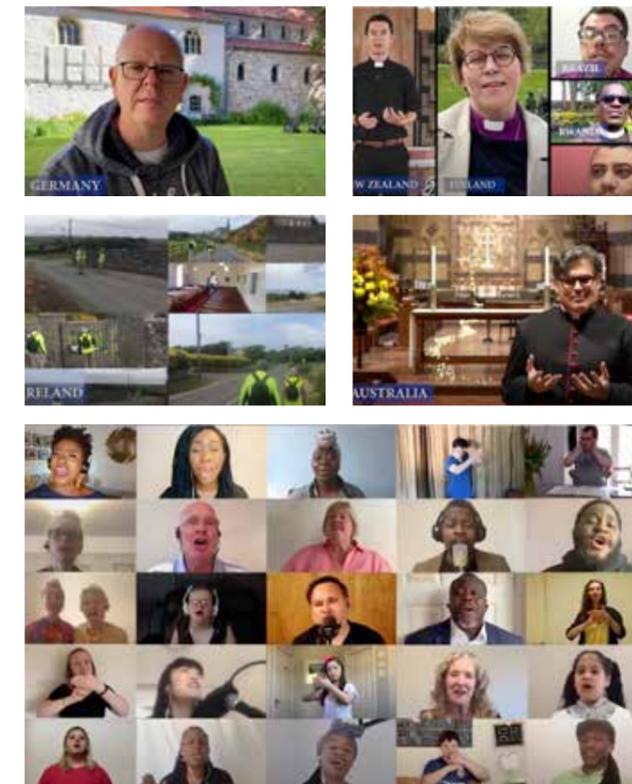


Engagement continues to deepen in key nations across the Anglican Communion and other denominations such as Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, Korea and Sri Lanka. Similarly, increased involvement and ownership of Thy Kingdom Come in nations has led to participants in several countries translating the website and key resources into native languages of their own volition.

For example, in Finland, the website was translated into Finnish; in Germany – key resources such as the prayer journal were translated in-country; for several years running, in New Zealand, resources were translated into Maori; and in Sri Lanka into Tamil and Sinhala. In Korea, for the first time this year, key videos were dubbed in Korean, again demonstrating the depth of TKC engagement.

Impact, of course goes beyond the numbers of Christians in engaged in different nations, the numbers of resources accessed and translated or video views. The greatest impact is often hardest to measure: a life in the process of being transformed by the love of Jesus. We know it is the work of the Holy Spirit which ultimately moves hearts to Christ, and it is our greatest hope that in some way, the prayers during these 11 days and beyond are either a seed planted, or watering of a seed, eventually contributing to a new life in Christ for those being prayed for.

Thy Kingdom Come has deepened and reinvigorated prayer lives; brought congregations closer together; been used as a discipleship tool; offered an opportunity for churches to work ecumenically – locally and beyond – and given renewed confidence in evangelism and witness.



*'We have taken part for the last three years, with different churches in our city gathering together in prayer. However, this year we had to go online. Each day we prayed, watched the videos and shared reflections together. All the group reflected at how much they had been blessed by this time of prayer and seeing prayers answered. One man in particular was blessed and saved by the Holy Spirit, through the pastoral care of one couple in our group and is heading into a Teen Challenge Drug Rehab program tomorrow. We all cheered. God is good – all the time!'*

## SECTION E: CONCLUSION

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In conclusion, we believe Thy Kingdom Come is God's work. We have prayed for and will continue to pray for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to enable us in our witness and to help us pray for others to come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Who knows what COVID-19 will bring for 2021? However, we will continue to work ecumenically, serve the church, and work across ages and traditions.

***'I cannot remember in my life anything that I've ever been involved in where I sensed so clearly the work of the Spirit.'***

*Archbishop Justin Welby*