



THY KINGDOM COME

**2021 Impact Report**



Dancing around to the Cheeky Pandas



Christians gather for prayer in Barishal Diocese, Bangladesh



Barefoot prayers



Two girls with the Cheeky Pandas



Young people using the Adventure Map



Celebrating Pentecost, St Benet Fink Church, Tottenham, London



Members of St Peter's Chelsea and All Angels Church, New York, USA together for the Feast of Ascension for Thy Kingdom Come



Handing out flowers to the community for Thy Kingdom Come, Amsterdam, Holland



Youth Prayer Meeting for Thy Kingdom Come at St Matthias Church, Hong Kong

All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Acts 1:14 NRSV

## SECTION A: Introduction

Christians in more than 170 countries, from across 80 different denominations and traditions, united in prayer for friends and family to come to faith in Christ, during this year's Thy Kingdom Come.

Now in its sixth year, Thy Kingdom Come's impact on the local church, in the UK, and internationally is not to be underestimated.

According to new independent research on UK churches specifically:

- Nearly 90% (87.5%) of respondents / churches took part in Thy Kingdom Come.
- Thy Kingdom Come was one of the most important activities that inspired congregations in their relationship with God and aided church growth.
- Ecumenically, Thy Kingdom Come's unique ability to unite churches across different denominations and traditions was highly commended – with many of the participating churches feeling equally involved – ranging from the Catholic to the Methodist and beyond.
- Churches valued TKC's free resources giveaway highly, especially in light of the pandemic's impact on church finances.

*'The Thy Kingdom Come series helped me to reconnect with God.'*

*'I was in a very difficult situation and hoped the prayer and refocus on Jesus would help me. And it did... All chosen topics helped me a lot, thank you.'*

Consistently, over the last few years, our own research has shown that Thy Kingdom Come continues to grow in terms of reach and depth of engagement:

- Such is the level of engagement, for the last few years running – almost 100% (99%) of participants plan to take part again next year.
- This year, 90% of respondents in the TKC annual survey prayed for friends and family to come to faith, with an incredible 75% planning follow-up conversations with loved ones – the highest percentage since Thy Kingdom Come began.
- For the last few years, Christians in nearly 90% of countries worldwide have taken part embedding TKC into their personal and corporate rhythms of prayer.
- The Pray for 5 messaging remains consistently strong worldwide – from Brazil to Burundi, Australia to Austria and Sri Lanka to Spain.

Thy Kingdom Come has become a highly-anticipated season of prayer for many churches around the world. In the annual feedback survey, many respondents noted Thy Kingdom Come was a much-needed time of joy and celebration and a key global moment of united prayer.

Many commended this year's range of brand-new, largely free resources for ages 3 to 103. The resources for children and youth helped to inspire young people to grow in their faith, as well as resources which were designed to refresh weary congregations and those who have drifted away during the pandemic.

*Thy Kingdom Come 2021 was a powerful time of prayer for mission in the midst of one of the most challenging moments of our generation. It was a joy to join with Christians from around the globe through 24-7 Prayer's Lectio 365 devotionals and pray daily for God's kingdom to come.*

Carla Harding, National Director, 24-7 Prayer Great Britain

### Collaboration and Diversity

*It was really good to work with the team at Thy Kingdom Come this year to ensure that the video resources were accessible to deaf people who use BSL. This was the first time I have been able to whole-heartedly recommend a nationally-produced resource. The BSL/English interpreters were brilliant and it was especially good that we used a deaf person to sign the song "We seek your Kingdom".*

Gill Behenna, National Deaf Ministry Advisor, Church of England

Thy Kingdom Come's commitment to collaboration and diversity is central to the movement's growth and development.

Thy Kingdom Come continues to be recognised by many for producing high-quality content that reflects the fullness of the Church – including age, tradition, denomination, ethnicity and geographical representation. This commitment to diversity and inclusion is also reflected in the range of accessible

resources offered. For the first time this year, BSL versions of all videos were created, the Novena and Prayer Journal were available in large print and the Prayer Journal in braille.

*'I love how much TKC embraces diversity, both in its content and those who are represented in videos. It feels like the Kingdom is coming! It gave hope in troubled times and brought light into a dark world.'*

Collaboration is also at the heart of Thy Kingdom Come, and this year was no different, with TKC teaming up with a range of organisations to produce resources and expand the reach of the movement including: global prayer movement 24-7 Prayer Lectio 365 and the Upper Room (online virtual prayer room); Archbishop of York's Youth Trust (Youth Reflections); London Institute of Contemporary Christianity (this year's anthem – We Seek Your Kingdom); Spring Harvest (supported the Cheeky Pandas); Churches Together in England and the Torch Trust (Prayer Journal in braille); Church of England National Deaf Services (BSL versions of the videos) and Churches Together in England.



## SECTION B: International Reach

*'There before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.'*

*These words from Revelation 7:9 are a springboard of inspiration and drive for the international growth and engagement of Thy Kingdom Come. From the initial inquiry from the Bishop of Bermuda in the first year of Thy Kingdom Come to the participation of Christians across the Anglican Communion and other denominations in 170 countries, it has been wonderful to note the ways in which countries have made Thy Kingdom Come their own, incorporating it into their mission strategies and developing its delivery in ways that suit their own cultures and contexts.*

*Thy Kingdom Come is considered by many to be one of the most exciting and strategic offerings of leadership and inspiration to the Communion which the Archbishops have given. It is especially heartwarming to see countries where the Anglican Church is comparatively small take on Thy Kingdom Come and make immense efforts to weave it into their strategies for evangelism and growth.*

*Thy Kingdom Come is considered by many to be one of the most exciting and strategic offerings of leadership and inspiration to the Communion*

**...people have been turning to prayer more than ever before**

This year, with the Covid-19 pandemic and its devastating impact on communities around the world, people have been turning to prayer more than ever; including those who have never explored faith before and also those who are of faith, praying for their loved ones to know Christ's love especially during severe hardship.

Churches have continued using a combination of online and offline means, such as virtual gatherings and using digital resources, including the app such as in Papua New Guinea, to more traditional approaches such as ringing a bell at the end of the working day as a call to prayer, as in the Diocese of Rutana, Burundi.

More resources were translated into other languages in-country reflecting the demand to embed TKC internationally. This included the translation of key resources such as the Prayer Journal translated into Japanese, Portuguese (Brazil), and Spanish (Chile), the Cheeky Pandas' Prayer Book into Korean and Pray for 5 cards into Cantonese in Hong Kong.

Here is a brief snapshot of just some of Thy Kingdom Come's activity in different parts of the world:

# SOUTH AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

**Brazil**  
 The Anglican Church in Brazil, the largest and most populous country in South America, has grown its engagement with Thy Kingdom Come steadily and assuredly with the full support of the House of Bishops. This year it has taken place while the country is in the fierce grip of the Covid-19 pandemic, resulting in half a million lives lost, and with widespread hunger and food-poverty in its teeming cities. Despite this, Thy Kingdom Come had

more congregations and individuals taking part than ever before. Led by Bishop Francisco, who translated the Prayer Journal from English into Portuguese, a morning devotional video was published each day for the 11 days, alongside the Portuguese language versions of the main 11 videos. There are plans for live events next year, with a particular emphasis on moving out of the church buildings and into the public spaces to share the love of Jesus.

**Chile**  
*Once we got the Spanish version of the Novena, we printed it. Since we have not met in person for over a year, it was a blessing to visit and distribute the booklets in person. Our church will follow through with the Alpha curriculum to help reach the people on our prayer list.*  
 A church leader in Chile



# EUROPE

**The Netherlands**  
*Our involvement this year in TKC was good. We had more participants than the year before. We chose our own contextual theme as 'heavenly wind' - praying for a fresh wind from heaven amidst the Covid-19 crisis. On Ascension Day a group of us gathered to pray and share. Every day at 19.00 we gathered with people in our café for a prayer walk with 2-3 people inside praying and sharing. We had daily Bible verses and questions based on our theme. We had a prayer wall filled with different themes for our neighbourhood, including plans for a new social café as a fresh expression of church, and dreams about what God can do in our lives and the lives of others. We also prayed for our loved ones to know more of God in their lives. On Pentecost Sunday, we made a long line of written prayers in a garden and we shared flowers with the people on the street.*  
 A church leader in The Netherlands

**Finland**  
 For the last few years, churches in Finland have taken part in Thy Kingdom Come in a deep and meaningful way. This includes translating the Thy Kingdom Come website into Finnish and several resources including the Prayer Journal and Novena - with daily posts shared online in Finnish. St Nicholas Anglican Church, Helsinki (the mother congregation of the Anglican Chaplaincy) created 11 video reflections from various leaders across different denominations in Finland (including Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist), Christian organisations, and, the Finnish Ecumenical Council, which was shared on Facebook in Finnish alongside personal testimonies, daily prayers and posts from this year's Novena. There are plans for even greater engagement with Thy Kingdom Come for 2022. Most activity was via Tulkoon sinun valtakuntasi Facebook due to Covid-19 restrictions.

**Greece**  
*We are an ex-pat ecumenical community and worship together under the Anglican tradition. In previous years we have been involved including prayer walking ending on a little beach at sunset, and also praying around the town for local businesses affected by austerity measures. In our prayer walks we also included our non-church going friends who wished to join us, which was lovely. We were unable to meet up in person this*

*year but through the wonders of technology (though severely restricted by my lack of skill) I was able to share information leading up to the campaign so that everyone knew what was coming and could be ready to join in. This year, we shared the daily videos, reflections and Bible readings and instead followed this TKC according to the Orthodox calendar re dates but in the Anglican tradition. We supported one another in prayer using our WhatsApp group, sharing requests and praying together. I'm hoping next year we will be able to get together in person once again.*  
 Licensed Reader, Corfu Chaplaincy

# AUSTRALIA

**Australia**  
 At St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne, Australia, we are delighted to take part in the Thy Kingdom Come initiative each year. Along with the rich cultural history of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, on whose traditional lands the Cathedral stands, Melbourne is a multi-cultural community, with many waves of migrants having made Australia home.

Over 26 nations are represented in our congregations. We began our 2021 Beacon Event with the Lord's Prayer in a handful of the many languages that are represented in our diocesan clergy. We are excited to announce to 'the nations' in our own community the peace God has worked through Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of sins, and the love and grace that shape our lives.

Venerable Canon Heather Patacca  
 Precentor, St Paul's Cathedral

**Aotearoa New Zealand**  
 Participation in the Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand has deepened year on year with key resources, such as the Prayer Journal being translated into Te Reo, the Maori language. This is similar to the Diocese of Wellington, where there was a range of Thy Kingdom Come-related events and activities. This included hosting regular rhythms of prayer and prayer vigils around Pray for 5 and a concluding ecumenical Pentecost service at Wairarapa College, uniting hundreds of Christians, from various local churches.

Archdeacon Lyndon Drake said:  
*'We were so happy this year to see the Prayer Journal as a bilingual resource, thanks to Neihana Reihana and Bishop Te Kitohi Pikaahu who translated it into Maori. Ever since the Very Rev'd Bob Key's visit to us in Auckland, Bishop Te Kitohi has given wholehearted support to the project, and even though we can't meet in person it has been wonderful to keep up the connection with Bob in preparing for TKC 2021. One of the joys of Christian ministry is the sense of partnership with others around the world, and working with Bob has given us great joy as we've seen people come to faith in our dear Saviour, Jesus Christ.'*



# NORTH AMERICA



## Canada

In the Anglican Diocese of Montreal, Christians were invited by Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson, to pray for the renewal and revival of Montreal Diocese over the 11 days.

*We had a virtual prayer room and would gather for prayer, four times throughout the day, using the Novena.*

A Church leader in Canada

*This year I was able to share my Thy Kingdom Come emails throughout the 11 days with my adult children and their children (my grandchildren) ages 9 months to 21 and several friends for their families. Each day was encouraging for them and they were so joyful and expectant when Pentecost arrived. Prayer changes things. I can't wait to hear from them all regarding their experience.*

A grandparent in Canada



## USA

Church members outside their bespoke prayer wall created for this year's Thy Kingdom Come.

St John's Church, Wilmington, North Carolina, USA



# AFRICA



## South Africa

*I am a retired priest in South Africa. All I can say is, 'Wow!' My wife and I watched the main videos as well as those for youth, and were greatly blessed by them. I downloaded all the Cheeky Panda songs and videos for our six year-old grandson, who loves them! I can't suggest improvement. All I can say is Keep it up!*



## Burundi

*People came in very big numbers to prayer gatherings. We contextualised it for our country and community as we mixed prayers for the world in common with the rest of the Anglican Communion, and the concerns of the people of Burundi. The prayer was very important. Our people liked the very quiet moment with God.* Bishop Pontien of the Diocese of Rutana



# ASIA



## Japan

This year's Prayer Journal was translated into Japanese, by the Nippon Sei Ko Kai (Anglican Church in Japan) undertaken by The Rt. Rev. Dr. Renta Nishihara, Bishop of Chubu. And as in previous years, English language resources were translated and disseminated to churches and congregations – reflecting commitment, at a senior level, from the House of Bishops who have supported the engagement of Thy Kingdom Come in their

dioceses. Bishop Augustine who leads for Thy Kingdom Come said:

*'Many more people and churches took part than last year, and we hope we can continue to build upon this going forward. We feel so lucky to have a strong personal relationship with Bob Key, the Anglican Communion Lead for Thy Kingdom Come, and are glad that contact is so easy and straightforward because of this. The Japanese Church is a bit isolated at times, and we value the connection we have to the wider communion. We look forward to working with you as we prepare for TKC2022.'*



## Bangladesh

For the last few years Barishal Diocese, Church of Bangladesh, has organised a series of events for Thy Kingdom Come, with this year seeing significant engagement from children and young people. The Rt Revd Shourabh Pholia, Bishop of Barisal, said: 'We are thankful to His Grace Archbishop Justin Welby and to you all who invited us and always encouraged us to join you all in prayer.' Next year, there are plans to translate resources into Bangla, the language spoken by most people in Bangladesh.



## Indonesia

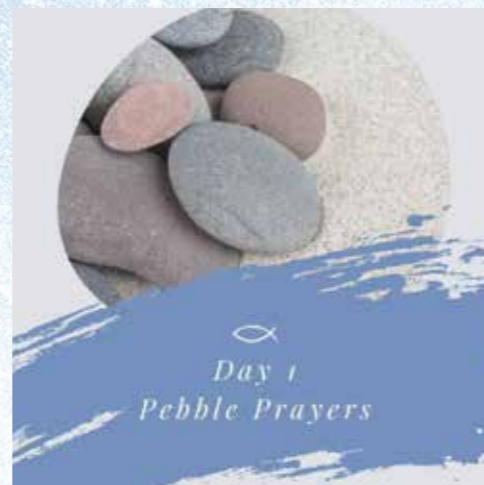
*I live in Indonesia, where my wife and I serve on the leadership team of the Salvation Army. Life is very busy and Bandung is noisy and chaotic. I really enjoyed heading out with my scooter and finding a quiet spot to enjoy the day's devotional.*



## Sri Lanka

*We have been using the New TKC hymn at most of our prayer times, and now others are also using it as it's so beautiful and meaningful for prayer such as the line, 'transform, revive and heal society'. Covid caused great problems in our churches and society but the recent uptake of vaccines has been encouraging.*

*The Lord provides. He is so wonderful to us. I also managed to revive the Anglican Evangelical Fellowship. We will be having the AGM at the end of September, that's a great joy.*



*From continuous prayer on and offline to creative prayer stations, Bow Down prayer moments to prayer walking in the community, Christians around the world gathered to pray in a range of ways during the 11 days.*



*'But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.'*

Matthew 19:14 (NRSV)

## SECTION C: Focus on children

This year the Thy Kingdom Come team were determined to create high-quality resources to encourage children and young people to grow deeper in their faith and closer to Christ – suitable for use at home, at school or in church.

For primary school children, Thy Kingdom Come partnered with the Cheeky Pandas to produce an 11-part series, with each episode comprising animation, worship, prayer, Bible stories and interviews with high profile leaders including Archbishop Justin Welby, CBeebies' Gemma Hunt, Bear Grylls and Nicky Gumbel from HTB.

The 11 episodes were shown in churches and homes worldwide and were also televised on Christian broadcast networks including TBN UK and GOD TV UK – broadcast into millions of homes. A short feature featured in BBC One's Songs of Praise on Pentecost Sunday.

A range of accompanying resources were created to be used in schools, homes and churches. These included activity packs, prayer booklets, service sheets, the app and map, widgets for children with learning disabilities, and BSL versions of the Cheeky Pandas series. The resources have been widely commended as a great example of accessible content by various churches, educational leaders and organisations including the Caritas Deaf Service.

A selection of resources were distributed to more than a million school children in Church of England and Methodist Schools in England and Wales.

*'We need these every day please! My six-year-old daughter is going to be lost without them! She gave her life to Jesus during this Thy Kingdom Come through watching and talking about the Cheeky Panda videos.'*

*'The Cheeky Pandas are a real hit with the children. Great teaching, singing and teaching of Biblical truths. Many, many thanks for helping us a family find up to date and relevant source.'*

### Cheeky Pandas inspired creativity:

The Cheeky Pandas resources inspired creativity in schools, churches and in homes. For example, the Diocese of Coventry – Growing Faith initiative organised a series of Cheeky Panda trails suitable for use in church grounds, the local high street and local parks – similar to an Easter egg hunt. The Cheeky

*'My three year old was really engaged with the Cheeky Pandas videos. She treasured the book and took it to bed with her. When she heard the word prayer in the video she would open the book. She put her hands together and said 'Amen'. I was so touched to see my youngest daughter so engaged in prayer. Thank you.'*

*'We absolutely loved the Cheeky Pandas videos. My two and four year old were both able to follow everything and it was very special to see them joining in with the Lord's Prayer.'*



Pandas images with accompanying QR codes for the 11 episodes, were hidden in various locations.

In schools, the Cheeky Pandas songs (mainly newly created for the series) inspired many to create their own songs and praise God through music.

Many churches and schools used the resources well-beyond the 11 days – with some stating that they provided 11 weeks' worth of children's Sunday curriculum and others planning to use the content for holiday clubs.

Beyond the 11 episodes of the Cheeky Pandas, we also produced a limited-edition selection of the Cheeky Pandas cuddly bears along with prayer books

to help young children grow their faith in a fun way. The panda bears were very popular with a number of people sharing that they had been used as a tool to aid discipleship in young people's faith. Even beyond children, the pandas brought joy to all ages – as reflected in these quotes:

*'My husband and I are 70 and we watched Cheeky Pandas, just the two of us, and loved it!'*

*'I bought a Cheeky Panda bear as a present for an older person who was in hospital and it became a 'must see' for staff!'*

### The App and Map:

For the third year running, we teamed up with Missional Generation, to create the Family Prayer Adventure app and map. The app comprises Bible-based interactive games and quizzes using augmented reality along with the map. The resource continues to be used, with the app still being downloaded well after Thy Kingdom Come.

The app was downloaded thousands of times during the 11 days, in more than double the number of countries compared to last year – reflecting the resource's increasing popularity.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**The videos on the app were viewed almost ¼ million times on Vimeo.**

### Pentecost Praise Service for Children

For the first time this year we hosted a special children's Pentecost Praise service. The service was hosted by CBeebies' Gemma Hunt and Bishop of Basingstoke David Williams, and included contributions from Pete and Sammy Greig, Archbishop Justin Welby, and the Cheeky Pandas. The service was simulcast on Pentecost Sunday at midday on several Facebook pages including Archbishop Justin Welby, Spring Harvest, and 24-7 Prayer, and on YouTube. The service was viewed thousands of times online. It was also broadcast by GOD TV and TBN UK who also commented on the high-quality production and the demand for high quality faith-based children's programming.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**More 125,000 printed copies of the map were distributed to schools, churches, and households across the UK.**

We have received numerous beautiful testimonies of how children have been inspired to share their faith as a result of participating in this year's Thy Kingdom Come and going deeper in their faith walk.

**Going live with Spring Harvest Home over Easter 2020 with the Cheeky Pandas premieres not only delivered great content and ministry to thousands of families, but also put a smile on the face of our 'Big Start' all-age family devotees!**

**The Cheeky Pandas are becoming firm favourites and their ability to deliver spiritual truth in a fun-filled way, with songs that you find yourself whistling through the day, are creating memories that wherever children end up on life's journey, will be unforgettable.**

**Phil Loose, CEO, Spring Harvest**

*'We watched the service for children on TBN on Pentecost Sunday. It was really well done and professional. Very clear teaching and application.'*

*'Thank you so much for the Pentecost Praise children's service including the Cheeky Pandas. I have a seven and four-year-old who watched over breakfast on Monday. It was a real blessing. They have been dancing around to Oh Wow!'*



## SECTION D: Focus on youth

We teamed up with the Archbishop of York's Youth Trust to produce a range of video reflections for young people to use at college, in church youth groups, or with friends at home.

*'Those who took part in the fellowship I attend mentioned how inspiring it was, especially the youth and children's resources this year. I love that the resources are available all year round and can be used outside of the 11 days.'*

The series featured a range of voices/young influencers from across different denominations and traditions including Guvna B, Former professional Rugby player and Coach Jamie Jones Buchanan, Pippa Baker (One Hope Project/Charismatic Catholic Renewal) and Phoebe Parkin, current Youth President for the Methodist Church of Great Britain.

The reflections were based on the daily themes and also covered issues such as climate change, grief, and masculinity, appealing to a wider audience reflected in the various places shared.

The reflections were highly-commended and used in youth groups and colleges up and down the country.

*'Thanks be to God for the opportunity to host a prayer space for all year 7 and year 8 students at a local school during TKC. It was positioned as a chance to look back at the last year and to look forward to the future hopes young people had. Pupils responded to it so well, their three word reviews were overwhelmingly positive. 'Calm, exciting, interesting, excellent, and inspiring' came up a lot, whilst the one-off, 'better than maths' made us smile, and 'I felt accepted' made us cry. Staff were blown away, they didn't know what to expect and saw pupils who they thought might be trouble engaging deeply. Thanks be to God for the opportunity, timing and team that led and prayed for this event, for the openness of staff and pupils who we prayed with and for over the three days.'*

We also produced in partnership, with the Diocese of Winchester Cathedral Pursuit an escape room for youth groups to use as a means to bring people together – online and offline. The heart behind this was to provide quality youth resources that would help churches begin to gather young people in a fun, accessible way – either in person or online – following the impact of the pandemic on children and young people.

*I love that through participating in Thy Kingdom Come I know I am praying with people of all ages, of all backgrounds, all over the world. Especially as a young person, it is really reaffirming to know that in all things, whether it is praying for social justice, for peace, or for others to know Jesus, that we can turn to God and find hope that God hears.*  
Phoebe Parkin, Methodist Church of Great Britain Youth President 2020-2021

*I loved the resources. I run the secondary-age youth work at Christchurch Southborough. Since lockdown we have had mid-week and Sunday meetings online every week. I have used the TKC youth video resources to create a term's worth of Sunday morning sessions starting with Pentecost Sunday. I used the video and the discussion plan as the basis for the sessions, adding additional Biblical passages to explore and questions to discuss.*

*The quality of the videos was consistently strong and the individuals who presented communicated well. It is so important for young people to have role models, to hear from people who are just a few years older than they are.*

*The discussion plans were great too – simple and straightforward – with good questions enabling the young people to reflect.*

From the Head of Religious Studies PGCE at Kings College

## SECTION E: Focus on adults: Resourcing the Church

With the ongoing effects of the pandemic causing many churches to adopt a hybrid approach, there was heavy investment in both digital and physical resources – catering to preferences of the Church in the UK for print resources and families and households more likely to choose digital resources.

*'Wow, the story of Stewart praying for his family inspired me to realise my prayers could impact the future generations of my family.'*

This year, there was brand new video content in response to public demand. As ever, the main videos covered a diverse range of voices including: the Bishop of Dover, Rose Hudson Wilkin, the first black woman Bishop in the Church of England; the Methodist Church of Great Britain's Phoebe Parkin; Stewart Betts, an ordinary man with an extraordinary faith and prayer life and His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos on Silence –

reflecting on the importance of this in the Orthodox traditions.

The responses to the videos were overwhelmingly positive with many stating that the testimonies had inspired them to go deeper in personal and corporate prayer and to share their faith with others. The videos were shared on our platforms throughout the 11 days but were also televised on several Christian TV networks – nationally and internationally – due to their high quality.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**Across social media, this year's Thy Kingdom Come videos were watched almost 1 million times, reaching audiences of just over 2 million.**

### The Thy Kingdom Come App

The award-winning TKC app this year featured audio content from global prayer movement 24-7 Prayer's Lectio 365 App. The app was downloaded thousands of times in 40 countries worldwide with many appreciating the range of voices featured, including Archbishop Justin Welby, Pete Greig, Carla Harding, and Brian Heasley.

*'I just found the daily podcasts so beautiful for focusing on God, sensing his presence, and being challenged to pray and act. Thank you so much.'*

Both the videos and app were regularly cited as discipleship tools by churches to help their congregations to get closer to Christ.

### Print Resources

This year's main print resources were the Prayer



*'I just got lost in conversation with God while using the printed prayer journal. It was brilliant – thank you.'*

Journal, written by Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell and the Novena. Both were made available in large print and audio versions with the Prayer Journal also being available in braille. Both resources were really well received, appealing to people of all levels of faith (new and mature);, with many using the resources in variety of ways including being given to candidates as part of baptismal preparation, in packages to new foodbank users, and other ways.

*'We were able to give out prayer journals at our newly-opened foodbank collection centre.'*

### DID YOU KNOW?

**In England over 250,000 resources have been ordered, including Archbishop Stephen's Prayer Journal and the Family Adventure Prayer Map, which has inspired faith and prayer across the country.**

We have received feedback from churches who have used the resources, not only as standalone

pieces of content but also incorporating Thy Kingdom Come into existing church programmes, such as tying it to the Alpha course for example, all of which demonstrates Thy Kingdom Come's strength, accessibility, and versatility. Also, many participants responded positively to the evergreen nature of the resources, with plans to use them at various points in the year or as part of their church programme.

*'Singing We Seek your Kingdom at the end of Pentecost outside church to the community was a great and very emotional time, especially after not gathering/singing for so long.'*

### Sing a new song

Music has always played a powerful role in Thy Kingdom Come and this year was no different. The anthem for this year's Thy Kingdom Come was the beautiful civic hymn *We Seek Your Kingdom* produced in partnership with LICC. With fresh lyrics set to the hymn, *Abide with Me*, the song was brought to life by worship leaders Noel Robinson, Andy Flanagan, Donna Akodu, and Lou Fellingham. The song was sung far and wide in churches and homes around the world.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**We Seek Your Kingdom music video has been viewed more than 250,000 times since its release.**



## SECTION F: The different ways churches and organisations were involved

### Ecumenism in Action

At the very heart of Thy Kingdom Come is ecumenism in action. This is reflected in the continued advocacy from His Holiness Pope Francis, the Presidents of Churches Together in England, and senior leaders from Church in Wales, Church of Scotland, and Church of Ireland.

*'Thy Kingdom Come was an opportunity to work ecumenically with churches in the village.'*

The campaign continues to attract the support of the Catholic Church in the UK and internationally, also reflected in the creation of various Catholic materials including Cheeky Pandas catechisms.

The commitment to ecumenism is also reflected in the range of voices featured in this year's campaign including a video with His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos providing an insight into the Coptic Orthodox Church; Phoebe Parkin, Methodist Youth president; Pippa Baker, Catholic Charismatic Renewal/One Hope project; and Bishop of Dover, Rose Hudson Wilkin.

It is also reflected in the range of parachurch networks and organisations involved this year. The advocacy from all these different leaders, denominations and networks has led to the growth and sustained engagement of Thy Kingdom Come across the world.

Churches worked ecumenically, taking part in a range of local events and online gatherings. This included citywide events such as Birmingham Churches Together ecumenical Churches Citywide Partnership, who hosted Pray24Brum – uniting churches in 24 hours of continuous prayer and organising the creation of 11 video reflections featuring regional/local church leaders from across different denominations including Quakers, Catholic, and Church of England.

### Orthodox Churches

For the first time this year we also held Thy Kingdom Come during the season as observed by Orthodox Churches (which this year was from June 10th-20th) and was endorsed by the CTE President for Orthodox Churches, His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos. This was well received with plans now in place to develop this into an annual ecumenical effort engaging orthodox churches across the Globe in line with their observation of the 50 days from Passover/Easter to Pentecost.

*'I am overjoyed that the Thy Kingdom Come team has decided to run the initiative again over the period of the Feast of the Ascension to the Feast of Pentecost according to the Orthodox calendar. This is a wonderfully ecumenically-minded gesture and brings to the core what I have always highlighted, that we all celebrate one incarnate, risen, and glorious Lord regardless of when we celebrate Him.'*

CTE's Orthodox President Archbishop Angaelos, Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London

### UK Catholic Churches

During Thy Kingdom Come, nine Catholic religious orders, communities, and new movements from around the UK and Ireland led evening or night prayers online. This included Poor Clares, Nottingham; Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Focolare, Northern Ireland; Discalced Carmelites, Oxford and Hynning Monastery, Franciscans and Faithful Companions of Jesus, London.

This year's movement was also supported by the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, with Bishop Mark O'Toole, Chair of the Bishops' Conference's Department for Evangelisation and Discipleship, encouraging Catholics to pray for and help people come to know Jesus Christ during the great Easter period of Ascension to Pentecost.

## Peak Parks Case Study

The Thy Kingdom Come Zoom Upper Room was well received and attended. Organised by the Methodist Church, it brought Christians together from across the denominations as they were led in prayers by a variety of leaders from across the Peak Park churches including pioneer ministers, lay leaders, priests, vicars, and bishops! Cliff College gap year students also helped to lead some of the prayer meetings. They met each day and were able to introduce one another to different ways of praying with others, including sharing the Methodist Year of Prayer Breakthrough Prayer. It has been a catalyst for further meetings with Christian leaders across the Peak Park; and they will continue to pray for revival; with the hope of gathering 1,000 and for each to pray for five people. They will be meeting in the autumn to start planning for next year.

*'We're the sort of moderate Catholic #CofE parish that isn't always quite sure how to go about evangelism and mission. #ThyKingdomCome2021 presents a great opportunity.'*

From continuous prayer, online and offline, to prayer walking, running and cycling; from prayer labyrinths to barefoot beach prayers; from creative prayer stations to prayer meetings and outreaches: churches engaged in hybrid approaches during the 11 days.

Churches used a range of creative ways to be involved including traditional Ascensiontide singing in Grimsby on top of Grimsby Minister, followed by 'prayer-planes', rocket prayers and hot chocolate in St Albans.

A big feature of this year's movement was churches committed to praying for their local communities, especially in light of the pandemic's impact in various areas. This was universal, whether in Brazil, Hong Kong, or elsewhere.

*'We made a prayer walk map of our town on our 24/7 FB page. It had key places to stop and pray across the town. We noticed a growing passion and love for the people of the town. God gave us great ideas on how to pray according to his will.'*

*'We encouraged our local community to pray by putting a prayer board outside the manse and encouraging them to tie a ribbon to the wall as they prayed. It was wonderful seeing people of all ages stopping and praying. We are continuing our prayer wall for the local community.'*  
(A Methodist Church)

### Big church networks

Whilst the evidence of TKC's impact on middle sized churches has been amazing to see, it has been equally encouraging to see how large church networks have made TKC their own such as New Wine Church and Vineyard Churches – which brought together Christians in nearly 1,000 locations across the UK – and others abroad.

## Bow Down Case Study

For the third year in a row, Vineyard Churches UK hosted the digital Bow Down event for Thy Kingdom Come.

This year's collective moment of prayer brought together Christians in nearly 1,000 locations across the UK, in a combination of in-person socially distanced gatherings, and at home, to take part in the 15 minutes of guided time of prayer, including a short time of worship and saying the Lord's prayer.

Although the website only allowed people to register in the UK, we know people around the world took part including Greece and Canada. We also know Christians from various different denominations and traditions were involved.

The collective moment of prayer was positively received with many stating that it was a huge encouragement to gather together despite being socially distant. This inspired several local spin-offs such as in the Diocese of Winchester.

*'During the pandemic, with all its restrictions, we were so grateful for the ability to gather online and pray together. Previously, Christians and churches gathered in their town and city centres to Bow Down; but despite lockdowns and restrictions, we were able to gather hundreds of households online to pray with a unified voice for God's Kingdom to come. On the evening, each household dropped a 'pin' with their name and their location on our online map, and this allowed us to see the church gathering from all over the UK. Praying with others is so powerful, and we're very grateful to Thy Kingdom Come for calling the church to prayer.'*

John and Debby Wright, National Directors, Vineyard Churches UK & Ireland

## Pray for five

Worldwide, the **pray for 5 messaging** remains strong especially across the Anglican Communion where resources, including **Pray for 5** cards, were translated into different languages such as In Hong Kong (Cantonese) and in Sri Lanka (Sinhala and Tamil).

Similarly, in the UK, the Pray for 5 messaging was also adopted by parachurch organisations such as Hope Together UK and across Church of England dioceses.

Pray for 5 continued to be the main way churches, families and individuals engaged with Thy Kingdom Come.

From Pray for 5 cards created in Hong Kong to sipping cups of tea and coffee five times a day in the UK, from creating prayer bands with five knots, to setting an alarm to pray five times a day on the mobile phone, the focus on Pray for 5 continues to remain a strong one for Thy Kingdom Come Faith at Work/Faith beyond.

*'I prayed for two young children as one of my five. Their grandmother who is a Christian (but her daughter is not) was delighted to have the Cheeky Pandas resource to whet their appetite. The creation youth video was very accessible and pertinent to many. I forwarded this to a young adult who was another of my five. I was in a dark place on one day and could not connect with God. I reached out to an old friend who was another of my five. She assured me my God was waiting there for me. I told her I felt I could hear Jesus through her comforting words.'*

## Faith at work/Faith beyond

For the second time running we teamed up with Transform Work UK, a network of Christian workplace groups in the UK, across different sectors, to create prayer resources to be used in the workplace.

We have seen chaplaincies get involved across the country including prison chaplaincies, hospital chaplains and defence Christian network.

The Defence Christian Network is a unified, multi-denominational Christian Network for both military personnel and MOD Civil Servants. Its mission is 'To connect, support and inspire Christians across Defence, make a Christian contribution to D&I and support the MOD's engagement objectives by reaching out to Christians in wider society.'

They partnered with the Armed Forces Chaplaincy to host TKC in their network. They have been involved in previous years. This year, they held a range of activities including an Ascension Day Launch service, daily devotions – over 9 days (Novena) featuring a range of voices across the network and ending in a Pentecost Sunday service.

*'Transform Work loved the opportunity to partner with Thy Kingdom Come to produce new resources to encourage workplace Christians around the world to be praying for and with their colleagues and places of work. Thy Kingdom Come's 11 days of prayer was encouraged across 46 Christian professional and sector groups such as nurses, truckers, teachers, police, firemen and women, as well as reaching out across 500 Christian workplace groups ranging from banks, supermarkets, oil industry, pharmacies, media outlets, postal workers and local and national government. The reach of mobilising prayer across the working community in 2021 through the partnership between Transform Work and Thy Kingdom Come has been greater than any previous year. We endeavour to expand this reach in 2022 as Transform Work has grown internationally connecting with workplace Christians in the USA, Australasia, Europe, and into India too! We will be excited to encourage more workplace Christians from across the nations to be praying Thy Kingdom Come and to see colleagues lives transformed by the power and love of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.'*

Ros Loaker, CEO, Transform Work UK

*'God has brought the five non-believers that I have been praying for to a stage of wanting to learn more.'*

*'I was taken by the idea of praying for five. It allowed the space for individual names to come to the forefront of my mind and to reflect on the quality of my own faith.'*

*'I invited the person I prayed for last year to an online Alpha course and they have been coming to our church online. Still praying.'*

*'I shared with my work team and encouraged them to pray over the daily encouragements and prayer themes.'*

## SECTION G: Beyond the 11 days

Sharing faith in an everyday context was a key theme in the qualitative feedback, with numerous testimonies of Christians feeling led to pray for or talk about Jesus in daily scenarios with one of their five – whether it be with their neighbours, work colleagues and family members. Churches/Christians/ participants have shared that they have felt more emboldened to share their faith, to reach out to their neighbours, and bring a word of hope.

Churches/Christians/ participants also noted that Thy Kingdom Come had renewed their prayer life (corporately and individually), given them a hunger to go deeper in discipleship, and to allow for creative expressions of faith.

A number of respondents also remarked the sense of connectedness they felt being part of Thy Kingdom Come despite being socially distant.

We have had countless stories of the impact of TKC, people being inspired in their faith and excited to see what is in store for TKC for 2022. Across the Commonwealth, it combines with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, providing a wonderful opportunity to reach out to local communities, to share their faith at Pentecost.

As a result of these stories we will be sharing testimonies – that is why we are going to be sharing TKC 365 – sharing stories of how God has answered prayers, transformed lives and inspired people to go out and be witnesses in the world, drawing them closer to Him.

*'I live alone, and because of Covid -19 restrictions am unable to have visitors. I found reading your daily messages helped me to feel God's presence in my life. I felt part of a global praying community.'*

*'I have been praying for my Dad for 11 years, on the afternoon of Pentecost Sunday, He asked, "What is Pentecost?" It opened up a whole conversation about Jesus and his disciples and how I got saved and received the gift of tongues.'*

*'TKC was a great opportunity to share my faith and concept of prayer with my grandchildren, which I will continue to build on.'*

*'Our church members were far more inspired to pray than we would have thought.'*

*'One of the five people I prayed for was a neighbour who lives on the corner of my street. During the period of Thy Kingdom Come I bumped into her as she was taking rubbish out to her bins. I asked her how she was. She said she was very depressed, wasn't able to get up in the mornings. Her ex-partner had died a few months before and she said it was the final straw during lockdown, which she had found very hard because she lived alone. I felt an unusual confidence in God and asked her if I could pray with her then and there, and she said "yes". I prayed for God to assure her of His love for her. Following that, we exchanged several texts and she described feeling stronger, sleeping better and being able to get up for work in the mornings on time. She has several times thanked me for my care. I am looking to develop this friendship and invite her to church.'*

## Daily Hope – Help in Dark Times

For many people, Thy Kingdom Come was a source of comfort at a challenging time. As part of this year's movement, the daily reflections from the 24-7 Lectio 365, featuring Archbishop Justin Welby were broadcast on the Daily Hope line – providing comfort and spiritual nourishment to the most isolated in our society, especially given this time of restrictions. The 11 reflections were broadcast in two 11-day successions to give callers an opportunity to listen to reflections again if needed. During this period, 15,000 phone calls were received with 250,000 minutes listened to. The telephone continues to be a lifeline to many.



***‘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*