



TKC 2025 10th anniversary - online workshop for dioceses

feedback

A) Activities / Ideas for churches:

1. Cathedral Beacon events – including:

- A themed Beacon event – for example: Messy Church Cathedral
- Cathedral event focused on a particular target audience / group i.e. young people

2. Prayer Journeying – Pilgrimage, prayer walking, beating the bounds, prayer journeying, prayer vigil on public transport on a particular route.

3. Focus on Children and Young People:

- Cheeky Pandas trail in the community, school and church – great idea for families (Coventry Diocese example)
- Minecraft Church
- Lego Church
- Messy Church

4. Prayer stations in public spaces / church buildings – could we also create opportunities for people of no faith or on fringes of faith to ‘explore’ prayer?

5. Continuous Prayer – hosting a 24/1; 24/7 or 24/10 in your local context. Opportunities to do this ecumenically - or partnering with a companion diocese to do it jointly in different time zones?

6. Creative Prayer outreach ideas – including Postcard prayer campaign with prayer post boxes dotted around the local area; having a mobile prayer space (i.e. a converted bus) travelling around the diocese?

7. Pray for 5- creating a mini campaign encouraging people to pray for 5 using different ideas – such as the prayer bands, pray for 5 cards, remembering to pray each time you drink a cup of tea/ coffee etc. Also use this to share stories and testimonies of praying for 5.

8. Connecting with communities of prayer in your diocese- is it possible that dioceses could partner with local prayer communities such as convents and monasteries- perhaps even encouraging people to explore different ways of praying?

9. TKC intercessions in existing church services; TKC prayers in diocesan staff prayer meetings in the 11 days.

10. Light up the world in prayer – prayer gatherings with a focus on light? For example – Vineyard Churches host Bow Down, where Christians gather in a town square to pray at dusk then use the light on their phones as torches / light a candle to signify the light of Christ.

11. Passing a Prayer Baton across a diocese and building in moments of collective prayer- links to Prayer Journeying.

12. Hosting ‘The Prayer’ – Pentecost Youth gatherings – could you host one in your diocese?

B) Inspiration from Dioceses- past examples of TKC activity:

- **Peterborough diocese- pilgrimage;** Last year Canon Steve Benoy, Bishop's Chaplain and Canon Missioner walked the length of the Diocese during this time, attending prayer events in every one deanery within the diocese- sharing good news stories from the parishes. This year they expanded on this opportunity with a focus on effective witness through sharing personal stories of faith and helping others to share theirs. For the 11 days of TKC, two teams walked the boundaries of the Diocese, starting in Peterborough Deanery on Ascension Day and meeting back together in Brackley Deanery on Pentecost. During this time, one team shared their stories of faith, and the other team focused on helping others to be confident in their witness. Each day of the pilgrimage saw a Thy Kingdom Come Deanery event so that all of the Diocese could join together in prayer and hear stories of faith shared. Bishop Debbie Sellin attended many of the events, and shared her own story of faith during the pilgrimage. The journeys were covered on the Strava App for people to follow and interact with- often leading to many joining with them. Content was shared on social media, which led to exponential social media growth (followers) and engagement- attracting local media.
- **Exeter diocese-** TKC part of a longer journey of prayer which started from a mission weekend with Archbishop Justin in early 2023, to a day of prayer in December 2023 leading to TKC 2024. TKC activity this year included involvement in a 3- day county festival show with 100K people in attendance. The diocese had a 'Thy Kingdom Come' themed stall including activities for families such as the Cheeky Pandas providing opportunities to engage with the wider public. Also had a well-attended big beacon event at Exeter Cathedral (600 people present – double the number of what was expected), with ecumenical contributions from the worship to prayers & intercessions etc. They also had 12 people on the prayer team from different denominations to pray for people at the event, with many lovely responses & testimonies to prayer received. They noticed a significant number of young adults (20s) in attendance at the Beacon event. The event was endorsed by Bishop Jackie Searle. TKC seen as a catalyst, and there are plans to build on this for 2025.
- **Coventry diocese** – They have participated in various ways over the years including: Sharing 'Pray for 5 content & stories across the diocese online during the COVID 19 lockdown; hosting a Cheeky Pandas Prayer Trail in the community, school gates and church yards – providing a great missional opportunity for families on fringes of faith; A TKC Beacon event in the Cathedral with Mothers Union a few years ago; Prayer walking the diocese using a local app developed by a local church, which was ecumenical in its approach, covering the diocese in prayer.
- **London Diocese /CCX- Prayer journeying** –'TKC Here'- was piloted in 2 London Boroughs this year, with different demographics – one the size of Liverpool and the other the size of Glasgow; An ecumenical group was formed around this in each London borough. This has proven to be popular as different groups can be involved. For example, groups older people praying & walking together; parents and toddlers groups praying with their buggies etc. Plans to extend across more London boroughs and this is being offered to churches to do in the month of May. A website entitled "Thy Kingdom Come Here includes resources such as an interactive map of streets in a local area, which is highlighted once it has been covered by prayer walking. Replicable across other cities and dioceses etc
- **Portsmouth Diocese** – In 2019 they held the Big Prayer Picnic, with thousands of Christians of all denominations gathered – in the grounds of Portchester Castle to pray and worship together. This includes 20 prayer booths from different denominations so people can explore different prayer styles. There was also a 90-minute worship and prayer time which began with a word from Bishop Christopher, and music led by a contemporary worship band, leading a 2,500 crowd in praising God using traditional hymns and contemporary songs, with the words flashed onto a big screen. A video message was played from the Archbishop of Canterbury and short video testimonies of new Christians shared. There were lots of activities for children including crazy golf, a mechanical rodeo and games organised by Spirit in Sport. A truly ecumenical and vibrant affair.
- **Chelmsford diocese** this year they hosted lots of prayer stations in the Cathedral, hundreds of children from the local schools took part.

- **Guildford diocese** - In previous years, they have held a big all age Beacon and they have also held big youth led Beacon event – by young people and for young people. Next year, they looking to combine the 2.
- **Sheffield diocese:** Have hosted 10 days of prayer for several years. Pray for 5 cards used widely & digitally. Have held Beacon events since the beginning, recognising it is a great opportunity to worship and pray together for smaller parishes, however local events are still held for those who prefer this. This year, they held a TKC themed Evensong at the Cathedral, an opportunity to worship in a different style bringing together both the Children's and Adults choir, also links to prayer and outreach. Building on this for next year. Key focus underpinning all TKC activity in the diocese is to increase the prayer life of local churches. They have a virtual prayer community across the diocese – (1450 ppl). During the COVID Lockdown this really thrived- for example, their 24/10 prayer online slots, were fully booked. Online prayer meetings still happening but on a smaller, local scale. Pilgrimage style prayer- walking, cycling etc v. popular. This year, they did this in 11/12 deaneries. Bishops have taken part in evangelistic events in Autumn and so they precede this with prayer in the spring. Opportunities for creativity re. pilgrimage including, walks, picnics & other activities. Hundreds involved. They will be building on this for 2025. Also looking to explore Beacon events in different parts of the diocese rather than one big central one at the Cathedral. TKC seen as an annual boost for prayer & mission.

C) Themes emerging / common reflections:

- **Amplifying the local** – TKC as an opportunity to do this.
- **Enhancing the Everyday (Everyday faith)** - 'how do we take our everyday journey and activities into moments of prayer in people's lives?
- **Prayer Journeying** – Pilgrimage, prayer walking, beating the bounds, prayer journeying, prayer vigil on public transport. Works in different contexts – rural & urban, very inclusive – parent and toddlers in buggies; older people; young people etc. Works well ecumenically too.
- **Strong focus on Children and young people** – links with the V&S objectives.
- **Simplicity is key.** How can TKC enhance / compliment what is already happening?
- **Sense of continuity 'being on a journey'** – prayer for evangelism in the spring, being foundational for mission in the Autumn – TKC as a catalyst.
- **Ecumenical working** – TKC perfect opportunity for this be it in a rural or urban context- in a village or big city.
- **Focusing on a particular group** of people can be very effective – for example, children and families rather than trying to reach all people.
- TKC provides an **opportunity to share stories of faith locally**
- Importance of **planning and having buy-in at different levels** within the diocese
- **Local, Deanery and Diocesan events** – exploring events in this way. What would work best for your context?
- **Sense of it being a real spiritual moment** – many shared stories of people coming to church seemingly 'randomly' with many asking for prayer who have no faith etc. 'how do we join in with what God is already doing?' 'Revival/ Awakening/ Renewal'
- **TKC - a catalyst for creating culture of prayer;** mission & evangelism; making & growing disciples; TKC helping to build people's devotional life so that eventually they will become missional etc.

D) Useful feedback on Lord's Prayer resources focus, Pray for Five, Light up the World messages, funding and diversity:

1. Lord's Prayer focus for resources next year- opportunities:

- Living out the Lord's prayer in the local – what would it look to pray AND live out the Lord's prayer in your diocese?
 - Next year Archbishop Stephen will be hosting a tour on the 'Lord's Prayer' next year in the Northern Province. Lots of points of connection.
- 2. When praying for people i.e. 'Pray for Five' – why not tell the people you are praying for them – what opportunities might arise from this?**
- 3. Light up the world in prayer-** big theme for next year – online map – different lights for individuals, families and dioceses/ churches on the TKC website / also animation coming out re. this.
- 4. Funding –** we will produce a list of dioceses that have mission funds and also any other funding opportunities that might be suitable.
- 5. Across centrally produced resources, ensure diversity –** including more regional voices i.e. Northern voices.
- 6. Neurodiversity –** how do we ensure all are catered for – including those on the Autistic Spectrum?

E) Next steps:

Could you create a plan for TKC 2025 your diocese? What resources would you need? Who needs to be involved?