



# ECHO

19TH AUGUST 2021

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ECUMENICAL CHURCH OF OCCITANIE  
[www.ourchurch.fr](http://www.ourchurch.fr)

## CHURCH LEADERS PRAY FOR PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN

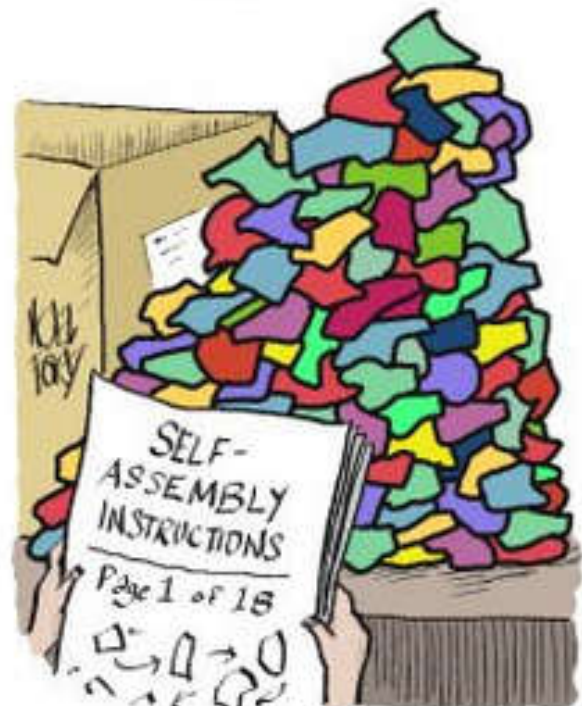
Archbishop Foley Beach, the Head of the US Anglican Church, the Reverend Sonia Hicks, President of the UK Methodist Conference and Archbishop Justin Welby have all called on Christians to pray for calm and peace in the current crisis in Afghanistan.

Speaking in the House of Lords, Archbishop Justin said "We must renew commitment to freedom of religion and belief everywhere, A WhatsApp, from a Christian in Afghanistan yesterday, asked for support there and in Pakistan. Memorably, it said, "I am willing to die for Jesus, but I do not want to die forgotten".

Archbishop Foley has written "Please join me in prayer for the people of Afghanistan, those Afghans and Americans seeking safe passage out of the country, and those on the ground continuing to help. Pray for wisdom for leaders at all levels who face very difficult decisions. Pray for the ever-growing underground Church in Afghanistan. Even more, pray that all Afghanis, especially those in power, are met by the Holy Spirit and come to personally know the risen Christ."

Rev Sonia Hicks has written with her Vice-President, Barbara Easton "In the face of uncertainty in Afghanistan and the region, we know that many will want to join us in prayer."

We will include prayers for the people of Afghanistan in our service on Sunday.



The Treasurer decided to cut costs by ordering the new stained glass window from IKEA.....



## NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP AT

### ECO

We have set out below our programme of worship for next week. For all details of our latest worship, always go to the Home Page of our website:

**[www.ourchurch.fr](http://www.ourchurch.fr)**

#### **Sunday August 22nd - Trinity 12—Proper 16**

##### **10:30 am Online Sunday Worship on Zoom**

This Sunday's service will be a service of morning prayer held live on Zoom. Our preacher will be Deb Carr.

As usual, the Zoom codes will appear on our website by 09:00 on Sunday. You will also be able to follow the service on YouTube or via Facebook Live

The service will followed by our normal online Zoom Coffee Bar at about 11:30

#### **Tuesday August 24th**

##### **19:00 - An Iona Service of Evening Prayer**

This is a short service of prayer and readings from the Bible which is available as a video and also as a Podcast to download and listen to at the close of the day. We also provide the order of service in .PDF for you to download and keep so that you can follow it on your smartphone, tablet or computer if you wish.

#### **Thursday August 26th**

##### **19:00 - A Service of Prayer for Healing**

Each week, we come together to pray by name for God's healing touch for those who are in special need at this time. We are happy to include anyone known to you in our prayers (we only refer to people by their first names)

Please send any names of people whom you would like to be included to

**[healing@ourchurch.fr](mailto:healing@ourchurch.fr)**

by **Wednesday evening 25th August** please.

## Evil all about us

*A prayer written by Rev Michael Hollings (1921-1997), a Catholic Priest in London which seems especially appropriate this week*

Lord, I don't understand how people do the horrible things to each other which I read about in the newspapers. ....

Lord, I cry to You to help those who inflict such injuries.

Take hatred from their hearts; give them understanding of the evil they do.

Strengthen the persecuted; give them courage and a firm belief in You.

Give me and all who try to serve You the desire to serve the suffering and fill us with the love which will defeat the power of evil in the world.



#### **Worship for the Young and the Young At Heart**

If you are joining us for worship with younger members of your family, each Sunday we are now also broadcasting a short video reflection on the readings for the day from our colleague and friend Margaret Pritchard Houston, who is a member of the Children's Ministry Team in the Diocese of St Albans. This Sunday's video is entitled "Where would we go?"