

With a Welcome from Archbishops  
Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell

**PRAY**  
*YOUR*  
**PART**

**21 Days of Prayer and Reflection  
for the General Election**



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



# Welcome

## from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York

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The coming General Election is critical moment in the life of our nation, which will shape our future. This is a time for us all to ask important questions about what kind of country we want to build.

The world and our nation face deep challenges – from questions of war and peace, poverty and injustice to the very future of the earth God has given us.

Faced with such huge questions, our calling as Christians is to turn first to God in prayer. We are therefore inviting everyone who is willing to dedicate the next few weeks as a time not just to think about the big questions, but also to pray for our nation and our world. We want to invite everyone to think about how we all can play our part both as voters and, more broadly, as citizens.

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us to pray each day, 'your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven'.

This simple and profound prayer is our starting point during the days leading up to the General Election – and all the days beyond.

May God's will be done in our nation and in God's world.

**Archbishop Justin Welby & Archbishop Stephen Cottrell**

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## Day 1

### 'YOUR KINGDOM COME'

#### READ 1 TIMOTHY 2.1-4

*'First of all then I urge that ... prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings should be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we might lead a quiet and peaceable life in all dignity ...'*

To vote is to have a say in the future. It is one of the ways we express our participation in society and what we want society to be. However, in 2019, nearly one in three of those eligible did not turn out to vote.

In the 'Our Father', we pray 'your kingdom come, your will be done'. As followers of Jesus, we should always be guided by what we see and understand to be God's purposes for the world. Whatever party we support, our vote is an expression of this.

Across the political spectrum, we believe that those who offer themselves for public office need and deserve our support and our prayer. In fact, the Bible urges us to pray for those who make difficult decisions on our behalf; who shoulder great burdens; who, we pray, will carry out their duty with integrity and compassion.

So let us vote, and let us pray for all those who are standing for election and for the future of our country.

Guide the leaders of the nations  
that they may work for the common good,  
and strengthen our hearts  
with a vision of your kingdom.  
*Hear us, good Lord.*

## Day 2

# INTEGRITY

### READ PSALM 15.1-2

*'O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill? Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart.'*

Anyone who points the finger at anyone else is always open to the charge of hypocrisy. But the truth is that everyone fails, and everyone has their inconsistencies. But that can't exempt us from the need to hold high expectations of one another. This is particularly true of those in public life to whom we entrust the leadership of our society. It is right that citizens should expect integrity, honesty and humility of those who wield power over the lives of others.

Perhaps the key word there is 'humility'. Holding others to account demands that we all face our own failure to live as we might wish. Those who 'abide in the Lord's tent' share space with others who know their own weakness – those who know their need of God's grace and the love of their neighbour.

It's important that we pray for those who expose themselves to public scrutiny and, too often, abuse – for those who stand for public office knowing the price that they and their loved ones might have to pay. And, as we rightly expect integrity in those engaged in public life, let's pray, too, that we may, in humility, hold ourselves to the same high standards.

Endue the High Court of Parliament  
and all the ministers of the Crown  
with integrity, wisdom and understanding.  
*Hear us, good Lord.*

## Day 3

# CANDIDATES

### READ JEREMIAH 29.4-7

*'But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you ... for in its welfare you will find your welfare ...'*

Jeremiah calls us to pray for the welfare – shalom – of our city and land. Shalom means peace, stability, prosperity and rest. That shalom will depend on wise leadership. We pray today for all candidates who are standing in the election.

Standing for election takes courage and generosity. Those who stand for public office are open to considerable public scrutiny. They deserve our thanks and respect.

Of course, we will agree with the opinions and approaches of some candidates and disagree with others. We may like some candidates and not others. Political engagement and the exercise of our right to vote is to be encouraged. We can be part of a better culture in this general election, and in the exercise of politics generally, by the ways we speak of and to candidates in this election whether in person, in hard copy or online.

As we pray for candidates, let's pray for our good practice in political engagement.

Guide all candidates for office  
and the leaders of the nations  
into the ways of peace and justice.  
*Hear us, good Lord.*

*"We are inviting everyone who is willing to dedicate the next few weeks as a time not just to think about the big questions, but also to pray for our nation and our world."*

## **The Archbishops of Canterbury and York**

# PRAY YOUR PART

**#PrayYourPart** is an invitation from the bishops of the Church of England to encourage prayer and participation in the life of our nation and communities, both as voters and as citizens.

This 21-day journey of prayer and reflection is designed for use in the run-up to the UK General Election. Each day explores a different theme, with a short Bible reading, reflection and prayer for an aspect of our common life.

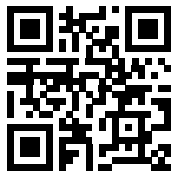
You can order more booklets, find free digital versions of this reflection journey and find out how you can get involved in **#PrayYourPart** at **[cofe.io/PrayYourPart](http://cofe.io/PrayYourPart)**

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