

# Join us to pray for the Anglican future

Anglican Futures, as our name suggests, is focused on the future.

Looking ahead, things may well be messy, but we are convinced that the greatest challenge for our generation is not, “How do we respond to heterodox church leaders?”, though that is important, but the holiness with which we treat our brothers and sisters whose conscience leads them to take a different path. So, our prayer is that we start by allowing God to challenge our own hearts, and then pray for the church.

## Global Focus - G26



From 3-6th March Gafcon have invited all orthodox bishops and other church leaders from all over the world with the intention of resetting the Anglican Communion.

It is described as “*a truly conciliar, confessional, and collaborative council — a global Anglican family seeking deeper unity in the truth of the gospel.*”

Pray for those organising the event and for safe travel for all the delegates. Pray for humility and wisdom for all attending and an outcome which offers hope to all those seeking to proclaim Christ faithfully in their different contexts.

## Why 1 Corinthians?

In 2006, the leaders of two churches in the USA, The Falls Church and Truro Church, produced a guidebook called, “[40 Days of Discernment](https://americananglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/40-Days-of-Discernment.pdf).” They involved colleagues from the Diocese of Virginia and across the Anglican Communion. The guide was designed to help parishes consider their future in The Episcopal Church through a time of prayer, fasting and small group discussion. <https://americananglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/40-Days-of-Discernment.pdf>

With the permission of the Anglican American Council, we have been inspired by their material, as we have sought to prepare something more suited to those in the UK and Europe in 2023. We are grateful for their wisdom and the ACNA BCP 2019 for prayers.



Find out more about Anglican Futures

[www.anglicanfutures.org](http://www.anglicanfutures.org)

[info@anglicanfutures.org](mailto:info@anglicanfutures.org) or 07851596888

Offering practical and pastoral support to faithful Anglicans

# Week 1: Praying for a united Church

*When we mirror the culture of our society, as has happened too often in the modern West, the light fades and is lost, but our great calling, as the GSFA, is to a life of faithfulness which mirrors the glory of the incarnate Word, full of grace and truth.*

GSFA Communique 2023

The pressures facing the Anglican Communion have been well documented. We have seen the fabric of the Communion torn as a number of provinces have walked away from an orthodox understanding of the Scriptures and undermined the doctrine of the church. Others, such as the Church of England, appear to be following their lead.

Some faithful Anglicans have sought to remain within these provinces, others have been left behind, unable in conscience to follow the new path or remain under the authority of those who condone such teaching. In many places, new Anglican jurisdictions have been recognised by the global Anglican Church.

Five hundred years ago, the Anglican reformers wrestled with a similar problem: they saw that all parts of God’s church have ‘erred’ in all areas, including ‘their living’ and ‘matters of Faith’ (Article 19). They knew that the Bible calls Christians to unity: “one Lord, one faith, one baptism” (Eph 4) and as one reformer, Bishop John Jewel, said, “It is doubtless an odious matter for one to leave the fellowship.” Yet, the Bible is filled with passages denouncing and urging action against false teaching and immoral living.

As we pray through 1 Corinthians together, we will see that the church has always been a mess. It is a mixed bag, full of potential and full of problems. It is a sober reminder that the church is made up of sinful men and women like you and me but it is also a joyful, confidence building reminder that the church is God’s church, the bride of Christ, to which God has pledged his faithful care.

This should humble us. So, let us pray for ourselves and those in authority over us.

*“Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live.”*





# Praying for a united Church



*We hope you will be helped to pray for the future of the church by taking time to read the bible passage (perhaps asking two simple questions - What does it teach me about God? What does it teach me about his church?) and by using the suggested prayers to begin to shape your own thanksgiving and petition.*

Day 1	<b>Read:</b> 1 Cor 1:1-9
	<b>Reflect:</b> Consider how, despite their failings, Paul prays for the church at Corinth - sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be saints(v2); blessed (v4) and gifted (v7); recipients of grace (v4) and inheritors of God's promises (v8-9).
	<b>Pray:</b> Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
Day 2	<b>Read:</b> 1 Cor 1:10-17
	<b>Reflect:</b> Perhaps the divisions in Corinth seem quite familiar. Note Paul's appeal to the church in Corinth is for unity - but not institutional unity - instead it is the unity that is only found under the cross of Christ and under the lordship of Christ.
	<b>Pray:</b> Oh Lord, our heavenly Father, keep your household the Church, continually in your true religion, that we who trust in the hope of your heavenly grace may always be defended by your mighty power, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever, Amen.
Day 3	<b>Read:</b> 1 Cor 1:18-25
	<b>Reflect:</b> God's ways are not our ways. The 'wise' may miss the point and the 'spiritual' may be distracted by signs. Paul calls the Corinthians to trust the revealed 'foolishness' and 'weakness' of the cross, whatever others may think.
	<b>Pray:</b> Teach me to seek you, and as I seek you, show yourself to me; for I cannot seek you unless you show me how, and I will never find you unless you show yourself to me. Let me seek you by desiring you, and desire you by seeking you; let me find you by loving you, and love you in finding you. Amen. (Anselm of Canterbury)

Day 4	<b>Read:</b> 1 Cor 1:26-31
	<b>Reflect:</b> It seems that as the Corinthian church grew, in importance and resources, they had begun to forget that they were completely dependent on God for all that matters. Perhaps that is why God uses the humble and weak?
	<b>Pray:</b> Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Day 5	<b>Read:</b> 1 Cor 2:1-5
	<b>Reflect:</b> Even Paul had to decide to 'know nothing' but 'Jesus Christ and him crucified'. We are so easily intimidated by fine sounding arguments and personal experience and this can pull us away from the Spirit and power of God.
	<b>Pray:</b> Give us grace O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Saviour Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvellous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever, Amen.
Day 6	<b>Read:</b> 1 Cor 2:6-10b
	<b>Reflect:</b> The Corinthians loved 'secret wisdom' - are we the same? Are we looking for the silver bullet to save the church? Yet the real 'secret' has been decreed, prepared and proclaimed by God through his son, Jesus Christ.
	<b>Pray:</b> O God, who for our redemption gave your only begotten Son to die upon the Cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the devil and the power of death: Grant us grace to die daily to sin, that we may live with him in the joy of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.
Day 7	<b>Read:</b> 1 Cor:2:10b-16
	<b>Reflect:</b> It is good to be reminded that our faith is revealed by the Holy Spirit - not worked out by man. It seems there is nothing new in people regarding the biblical witness as 'folly' which needs to be corrected by 'natural' wisdom.
	<b>Pray:</b> O God, who on this day taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.