

THE annual prayer movement [Thy Kingdom Come](#) — which last year attracted tens of thousands of people to mass events around the world — begins today indoors and [online](#), owing to the [coronavirus](#).

Since its creation by the Archbishops of [Canterbury](#) and [York](#) in 2016, the global call to prayer from Ascension Day to Pentecost has been defined by mass gatherings, worship, picnics, and parties ([News, 14 June 2019](#)).

Archbishop Welby said: “It seems we are having to reinvent everything this year. Thy Kingdom Come, which is normally a time of gathering and of being together, is now to be done at home. Well, praise God. That is where the Church began — in people’s homes, in people’s houses — and where, in many parts of the world, it still happens.”

The app Thy Kingdom Come has been relaunched, and a new initiative, “Prayer and Care”, suggests practical ways of caring for others during the 11 days. Digital and printable resources have also been listed on the website, including The Upper Room, a virtual prayer room for continuous prayer; a prayer journal with Bible readings, reflections, and an illustration by the artist Charlie Mackesy; and a “Digital Family Prayer Adventure Map” for children to learn about prayer in an accessible way.

The map is accessible through a separate augmented-reality app, which includes Bible-story animations and video reflections from Archbishop Welby, the CBeebies presenter Gemma Hunt, and children’s authors. A printed map was originally to be distributed to half a million Key Stage 2 children in church schools in England and Wales.

Archbishop Welby said: “Let us regain our confidence as we pray between Ascension and Pentecost this year, praying for the coming of the Spirit that all may know that Jesus Christ is risen, that Jesus Christ is Lord, and in his life and love, there is hope and peace, and call and purpose. May God bless you in your times of prayer; may you know his living presence in your home.”

The [diocese of Canterbury](#) has organised a series of videos, email reflections, prayers, sermons, and other downloadable resources. The [Bishop of Dover](#), the Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, said: “The virus has taken many things from us, but it cannot rob us of our connection with one another, or of our connection with God.” Her Pentecost sermon is available for churches to download in advance.

The [Mothers’ Union](#) (MU) is marking Thy Kingdom Come with a short service streamed on [Facebook](#) at 2 p.m. today. It will include a welcome from the Archbishop, a sermon from the [Bishop of Penrith](#), Dr Emma Ineson, and a segment from the Anglican Communion lead for Thy Kingdom Come, the Very Revd Bob Key.

He said: “It is a gift that prayer can transcend all boundaries in this moment. Wherever we are in the world, I know we can find great comfort in that and through God’s love.”

The Worldwide President of the MU, Sheran Harper, said: “Given all that is happening around us, it feels right at this time that we join together in prayer and give thanks not only for our frontline workers, but also for our friends and family.”



The Holy House, which contains the image of Our Lady of Walsingham

Also moving online this year is the annual National [Pilgrimage](#) to the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham on Bank Holiday Monday. The Priest Administrator, the Revd Kevin Smith, has created a programme of live-streamed events on this year's theme, Mary, Queen of All Creation. It starts at 11.45 a.m., and includes a sung mass in the nave, a homily by the Revd Tim Pike, Vicar of St Michael's, West Croydon, and Shrine Prayers from the Holy House.

Fr Smith said: "While we sadly are unable to welcome pilgrims in person to this year's event, it's heart-warming that so many people have embraced digital platforms to keep in touch with the Shrine during the lockdown. Despite the challenging circumstances, we are determined to celebrate our flagship event with renewed zeal, and hope that pilgrims across the country will join us online for the celebrations next Monday."