

The Novena – 9 Days of Prayer

Churches in Lockerley, East Tytherley, East Dean and West Tytherley are to ensure that there will be people in Lockerley Church 24/7 during the Novena (9 Days of Prayer) – for a week, at every hour of the day and night. The Novena starts on Ascension Day (25th May) and ends on Pentecost (4th June).

The impetus comes in response to the “Thy Kingdome Come” initiative from the Archbishop of Canterbury (www.thykingdomcome.global). The Benefice has also registered with “24-7 Prayer” - an organization which helps to coordinate people praying across the world, in different denominations.

As part of this week there is planned to be: a Quiet Day in West Tytherley (10am-2pm on Thursday 1st June) offering the chance for guided prayer and quiet; a daily ‘Noisy Hour’ when louder music can be played and made (5-6pm); prayer walks – a chance to explore the beautiful God-given Hampshire countryside, with at least one ending with a picnic tea; some ‘Mindfulness’ sessions (every evening at 7.30pm); and, a tent (or two) in church...outside the church a labyrinth will be painted on the grass. The labyrinth is an ancient way of praying – from the 4th Century through the medieval period to now.

As the Church will be open all day and night there will be the opportunity to drop in for an hour or more. In the many prayers offered, the focus will be on the mission and ministry of each of us in our communities. Fellow Christians around the world will also be prayed for – with emails to be exchanged with Matt and Jo Dear (daughter of former Vicar of the Benefice) who are in China, working in Schools.

To help the churches in their prayer, people from around the Diocese, will come to share the experience. There will be an indoor art and craft tent which could be particularly well used during Half Term!



24-7 PRAYER

Volunteers

We need volunteers to come to Lockerley Church for an hour or more **between 9am on Thursday 25th May and 9am on Thursday 1st June.**

There is a ‘sign-up sheet’ in Lockerley Church, or you can email the Vicar. We need at least one or two people to be in the Church at any one time so we will need lots of volunteers!

Each day there will be someone to lead:

9am	Morning Prayer
Noon	Midday Prayers
7pm	Evening Prayer or Eucharist
7.30pm	Mindfulness (Focussed contemplation/prayer)

For more information, please contact the Vicar jamespitkin@priest.com or 01794-340635

