

Liturgical and reflective resources for churches seeking to respond to the Manchester bombing

These resources have been compiled to assist church leaders who are planning special services, opening their churches for quiet reflection, or seeking to respond to events accountably in regular acts of worship.

This list has been compiled from a number of places, including material shared on social media. Where authors are known, they are acknowledged. No copyright infringement is intended.

This document has the following sections, some more fulsome than others:

- Official Liturgical Resources (C of E)
- Ecumenical compilations
- Suggested hymns
- Other music
- Prayers
- Memes, quotations, poems, speeches, pledges etc
- Suggestions for using symbols
- Suggested resources for children and all age worship
- Sermons
- Longer blog posts and articles

Finally, this document is a work in progress. Further ideas are very very welcome!

Official liturgical resources (Church of England)

Thinking Anglicans has provided this helpful guidance in finding suitable liturgical resources within Common Worship. <http://www.thinkinganglicans.org.uk/liturgy/archives/007567.html>

Ecumenical Compilations of Resources

This page from CTBI: <https://ctbi.org.uk/churches-react-to-manchester-bombing/>

This mostly contains messages of support from church leaders of various denominations.

Hymns

We don't all know the same hymns, and the character and tone of an event, as well as its likely congregation, will be the most helpful guide in determining what might helpfully be sung. The following are some suggestions, some well known, some less so, which may be helpful. Most are widely available in published hymnals, or are available online as indicated.

- Lead kindly light
- Make me a channel of your peace
- The Lord's my shepherd
- Dear Lord and Father of mankind
- O God of earth and altar

- Brother sister let me serve you
- Jesus Christ is Waiting
- How long O Lord (Woollet & Norton, based on Psalm 13)
- Let us build a house where love can dwell
- Sent by the Lord (in Common Praise)
- A Touching Place (John Bell)
- Be still my soul
- Beauty for brokenness
- God is love, let heaven adore him
- Goodness is stronger than Evil (Tutu/Bell) in HA&M Hymns for Refreshing Worship
http://hymnary.org/text/goodness_is_stronger_than_evil
- Shalom Chaverim (Shalom my friends, God's Peace be with you).
- Ally Barrett's hymn 'O God of all salvation' (written originally in Summer 2016) – the words are new but it goes to various well known tunes.
<https://reverendally.org/2017/05/23/praying-for-manchester/>
- *This Nicaraguan song, in Lambeth Praise:*
Sent by the Lord am I,
my hands are ready now,
to make the earth a place,
in which the kingdom comes (x2),
The angels cannot change,
a world of grief and pain,
into a world of love,
of justice and of peace,
the work is mine to do,
to set it really free,
oh help me to obey,
help me to do your will.

Other music

Last Journey: Time of Grieving <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Last-Journey-Grieving-John-Bell/dp/B00001QGTP>

Prayers

There have been some beautiful prayers shared on social media, written by individuals or issued officially by various dioceses and organisations. There are also some established prayers here that are appropriate and helpful. Here is a selection.

From the Community of the Cross of Nails (Coventry Cathedral):

<http://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/ccn/the-coventry-litany-of-reconciliation/>

From Canon Kathryn Fleming (Coventry Cathedral):

Lord you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

Be with all who cry out to you today,
the weeping, the wounded, the angry, the terrified,
and in your mercy receive all the departed

into the light of your kingdom,
for we ask this in Jesus' name.

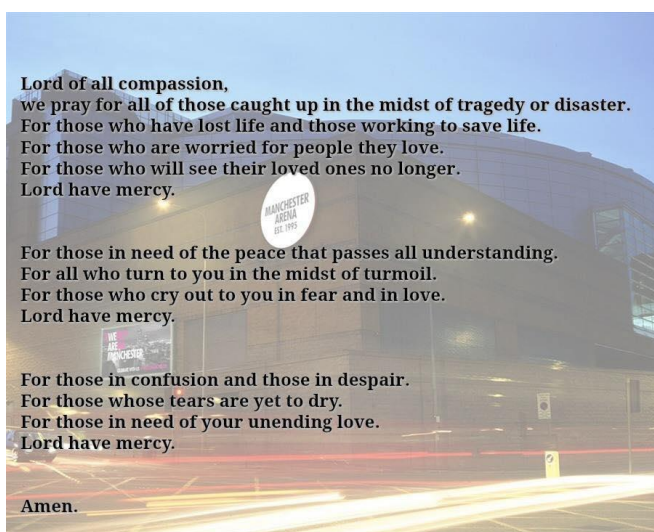
From Rachel Mann (a vicar in Manchester): <http://therachelmannblogspot.blogspot.co.uk/2017/05/a-prayer-for-manchester-after-bombing.html>

From the Diocese and Bishop of Manchester:

**God of compassion,
you hear the cries of all who are in trouble or distress;
accept our prayers for those whose lives are affected by the bombing in Manchester;
We pray especially for those suddenly facing a future without a child, parent or
loved one,
young ones who are in deep distress
those who are injured, traumatized or awaiting news
strengthen them in their hour of need,
grant them perseverance and courage to face the future
and be to them a firm foundation on which to build their lives;
this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.**



This posted by Bristol Cathedral:



This prayer from the Bishop of Huntingdon:

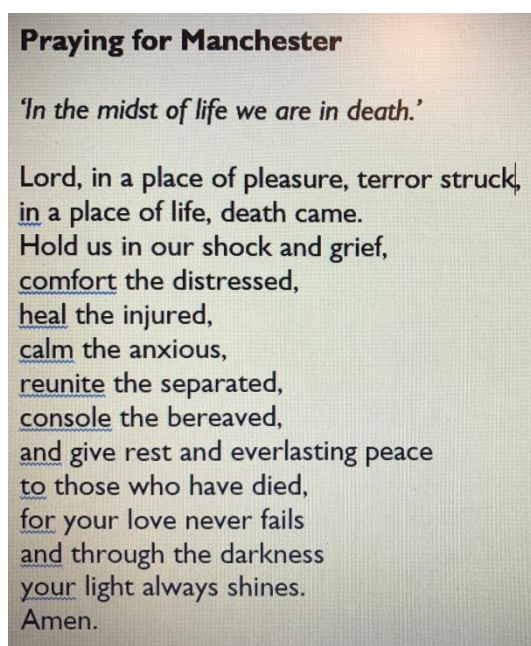
God of all goodness,
receive into your loving arms
all those who have died,
hold in your loving care

all those who are injured
and those who grieve;
give insight and wisdom
to those investigating;
and give strength and courage
to us all to work together
to rebuild our common good
and find your good future for us all;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Posted on social media by the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales:



Posted on social media by Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark:



Mememes, quotations, poems, speeches, pledges etc

- *From The Feast's facebook feed (we have asked if this is OK to share outside of fb– awaiting a reply)*
We will not jump to conclusions.
We will weep with the grieving and scared.
We will not be overcome by hate.
We will fight for fairness and the wellbeing of all.
We will not retreat into our shells.
We will work out what it means to love our neighbour.
We will not give up.
We will cheer on the brave who protect us.
We will not stay silent in the face of ignorance.
We will pray harder for peace and healing.
- *'It is not true' Affirmation (South Africa) – in the Iona Community Worship Book*
- *This is the Place / Forever Manchester (Tony Walsh) – you can hear and read the full poem on the Manchester Evening News website:*
<http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/tony-walsh-poem-manchester-vigil-13082050>
- *This image by Revd Fiona Gibson*

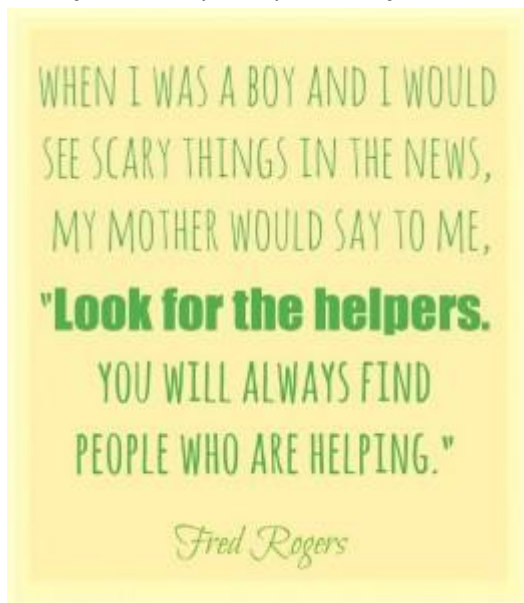


- "Darkness cannot drive out darkness;
only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate;
only love can do that."
- Martin Luther King, Jr.

- *From Revd Gill Robertson:*



- *'Look for the Helpers' quotation from Fred Rogers:*



Ideas for actions, staging, use of symbols etc

- 22 daisies for 22 lives (idea from Sally Prendergast)



- 22 Candles for 22 lives:



Children's and All Age resources

- The ever-excellent assemblies.co.uk has provided an assembly which can be downloaded here: <http://www.assemblies.org.uk/sec/2931/the-choice-of-peace-a-response-to-the-manchester-arena-attack-in-may-2017>
- The BBC's Family and Education News department has issued a helpful video for those who may have to explain to children what has happened. It is available on their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BBCFamilyNews/videos/1279898942131928/>
- *This interactive reflection from Angela Rigby:*
Responsive, action prayer to help people name hurts but also encourages looking for signs of hope... Cut out heart shapes but cut in half (broken hearts). On one half invite people to write fears, angers, worries to give to God. Place on communion table or at foot of cross. later, on other half, write hopes, signs that God is at work in our pain (examples people helping each other, emergency services, politicians not campaigning, etc). Encourage people to put broken halves together, prayerfully mending. Doesn't need to be their half.

Sermons and sermon ideas

- Sometimes less is more, and there is a place for silence – it may not be possible to find the right words for everyone.
- It is Ascensiontide: when Christ ascended, he handed on his work to us, the new Body of Christ, and it is at times like these that we learn most acutely what it means to be the body of Christ, to be his hands and feet and eyes and ears, building the kingdom and sharing the love of God. We are encouraged to ‘look for the helpers’ (Fred Rogers) and to ‘go out and do likewise’ (Jesus Christ).

Other resources and articles

- This reflection from Psephizo: <https://www.psephizo.com/life-ministry/what-do-we-feel-about-the-manchester-bombing/>
- This from Revd Ruth Ridge: <http://ruthsramblings.com/home/a-voice-is-heard-in-ramah>

Disaster Response Toolkit for churches

This section is taken from Kate Bailey’s draft resource based on her own research following a previous local / national disaster, so is not specific to Manchester. It is shared with her permission. Some of the liturgical suggestions may be duplicated above - this is all a work in progress.

This Resource Toolkit includes a selection of ideas which have been found to be useful in preparing for a service to be held immediately after a community or national crisis. As yet this is just an outline, but will be worked on over time to provide a fuller list of suggestions such as bible readings and intercessions.

At present it contains:-

- advice to enable clergy to think about making contingency plans in case they are called out to a disaster situation in their parish.
- suggestions about getting the contact details for senior Diocesan staff and Diocesan Communications Officer in the case of an emergency.
- Items which can be purchased and kept ready in preparation for a disaster.
- Link to Church of England website for a service plan entitled “Service of Lament, entitled Facing Pain”.
- Links to various websites for material suitable for use in church services after a disaster.
- Finally options for the liturgical framework for a service follow, together with general information and advice on making the church accessible to the public.

Preparation in case of disaster

For those who are nominated as First Responders in the case of an emergency, it is advised to have a ‘go bag’ containing the following items:

- Notebook to keep log
- Pens
- Spare paper
- Faith equipment, ie Bible, rosary, etc
- Local area map
- Supplies of any medication which you use regularly
- Torch
- Mobile phone and charger
- List of personal contact telephone numbers
- Light snacks
- Money (coins for vending machines, etc.)
- Driving licence and/or some form of photo identification
- In addition it would be helpful to have a laminated card containing suitable and relevant prayers, including the Last Rites, and bible readings which could be used with those in need of spiritual assistance.

Make sure that someone knows if you are out of the Parish, for example, on Retreat, so that you can be contacted in the case of an emergency.

Many dioceses have their own Emergency Response plan, for example this one from London, which includes a list of useful websites <http://www.londonchurches.org.uk/resources/Response+to+Major+Incidents.pdf>

Know who to contact in your Diocese – this information should be in the Diocesan Emergency Response Plan, and keep a list of contact details for senior Diocesan staff, including Area/Diocesan Bishop, Bishops' Chaplains, Archdeacons.

Get to know your Diocesan Communications Officer who will be able to assist you in dealing with the media, and who should be informed immediately you hear about any disaster. S/he will know the local press contacts and will be able to keep them updated with any plans for services or other events happening within your church. If you haven't attended one, contact Church House Westminster and see when they are holding a Media Training Day for Working with the Media. <http://www.churchcommstraining.org/our-courses>

Books of Condolence

Buy and keep several of these in readiness. It is quite possible you will need more than one.

Candles

Ensure you have a supply of candles, and somewhere to place them, even if these are not part of your everyday pastoral provision. People want to come and light candles and pray, so reserve an area of the church where they can find peace and quiet. Make sure that you have tapers and matches available.

Flowers

People often want to place flowers as a tribute to those who have died. Plan a designated area where this can be done.

Cards/Sticky Notes for People to write prayers on – and somewhere to put them

Have a supply of cards or sticky notes so that visitors can write down prayers or thoughts, and somewhere they can put them – a display board helps others who visit to read the prayers if they cannot think of anything they want to write themselves. Include these in your pattern of intercessions, and tell people you will be holding these prayers before God in your daily worship.

Church Open/Welcome Board

Your church needs to be kept open, even if this is not the norm, and preferably manned by people ready with tea/coffee and available for prayer. Announce this on your church website or on social media. Put a board outside the church telling people that it is open and available.

Personal Care for those involved in Trauma situations

You will be affected by stress, and this situation may stay with you for the rest of your life. You need to talk this experience through with an experienced listener/counsellor in order to minimize the long-term negative consequences.

PLANNING THE SERVICE

WHAT DOES BEING A SIGN OF THE KINGDOM MEAN THIS MORNING?

These words were suggested by a member of clergy as a theme for a service to be held in the immediate aftermath of a local tragedy. It helps service leaders to focus on the purpose of our gathering together as a community in the light of what may have just happened locally in the parish or further afield in a national context.

Before the service make sure there is a "Church Open" Board placed outside the church with welcomers standing by it ready to lead people inside.

Be prepared to be flexible.

An outline for a Service of Lament, entitled Facing Pain, can be found in New Patterns for Worship: -

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/texts/newpatterns/sampleservicescontents/npw18.aspx>

This non-eucharistic service needs to be adapted to the circumstance, but offers a good outline for a service of the word to be held, not necessarily on a Sunday, giving space and relevance to what has happened, and offers hope to the bereaved.

Suggested Liturgical links (from an ecumenical perspective)

- Use of lament in psalms and interactive prayers: <http://www.reformedworship.org/article/june-1997/time-weep-liturgical-lament-times-crisis>
- Litany after an Act of terror: <http://www.liturgybytlw.com/OccChs/Terror.html>
- A document designed for use in schools for collective worship in responding to local, national and international crises :
<https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/curriculum/Documents/LewishamSACRERespondingToCrisesGuidance.pdf>
- A list of materials for specific times of disaster and hardship, from the Uniting Church in Australia: <https://assembly.uca.org.au/resources/disaster/item/517-list-of-materials-for-specific-times-of-disaster-and-hardship>
- Also from the Uniting Church in Australia, a Liturgy for a community in shock and grief after violence or an accident: <https://assembly.uca.org.au/images/stories/Disaster/communityliturgy.pdf>

Building blocks for liturgy at times of crisis

During the service plan to include the following items:

- Intercessions incorporating the disaster
- Special time of silence
- Sermon/homily/talk focusing on the situation, and how the church can help
- Time for lighting candles
- Prayer cards either to be affixed to a notice board, or collected and placed with the collection on the altar

Other things to consider:

- The Book of Condolence should be on a table and easily accessible so that people can write in it.
- Music – try to ensure that the hymns/songs/choir anthem are suitably reflective for the occasion
- Ensure that refreshments are available and people
- Provide an area of the church where people can sit quietly after the service to pray
- Ensure extra members of the Prayer Ministry team are available to talk to and pray with people after the service.

AFTER THE SERVICE

Gather a crisis team around you to decide how as a church you will respond over the coming days and weeks. If possible include a member of the medical profession, clergy from other churches and local headteacher in this team.

Keep the church open during the day and have the Book of Condolence available for visitors to come and sign.

FURTHER IN THE FUTURE

Plan a memorial service and/or community event.