

Wear Your Faith Fortnight Ideas for Church Leaders

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...

1 Peter: 3:15

- Talk to your community about their calling to shine as lights in the world – to be Christ's ambassadors. The symbol they choose to wear can help them to remember this as they go about their daily lives.
- Help your church members to think about what their symbol means to them. If someone were to ask them why they are wearing it, what might they say in response? Can they give a reason for the hope they have? What is their faith story?
- Encourage church members to share something about their chosen symbols on social media (They can use the hashtags #wearyourfaith and #wearmyfaith) or during a church service (perhaps think about using the "This Time Tomorrow" resource: <https://licc.org.uk/resources/this-time-tomorrow/>.)
- On Sunday 20 October 2024, pray for members of your church who are taking part – you might like to use some of the prayers overleaf to commission them during your Sunday service as they wear their badges over the next two weeks



The **Restored** badge of a jar, offers a representation of how Jesus restores us, fills us with his love and offers the opportunity to be filled with his lifegiving water.



The **Love** badge showing an image of a broken heart, reminds us that the whole of the Bible is based on God's love for all of us and for his world. The good news is that his love is for everyone; God loves us just as we are.



The **Rescue** badge is a representation of how Jesus reaches out and is there ready to love us, heal us and rescue us. It reminds us that God sent Jesus to be our rescuer, to remind us of what God is like; a loving Father who cares for everyone.



The **Forgive** badge represents how God offers everyone forgiveness, but we must remember to forgive others too, just as God has forgiven us.

Prayers

Here are some ideas for prayers – which can be amended to suit your tradition and context

Leader: Lord God, You call us to be the light of the world. In these coming weeks, Help us to bring light and hope to our communities.

As we wear our faith.

All: Help us to shine.

Leader: As we hallow Your name this season, **All:** Help us to shine.
Leader: As we seek forgiveness and forgive others,

All: Help us to shine.

Leader: As we recognise Your presence in others,

All: Help us to shine. **Leader:** Send us out to shine as lights for Christ in the world.

All: Amen.

Lord Jesus,
You are the light of the world.
Each day, as we receive your light
afresh,
Help us to walk in your light,
And, by your Spirit, help us to shine as
lights for Christ in the world,
To the glory of God the Father,
Amen

Lord Jesus,
May our words speak of your love,
May our actions reflect your light,
May the symbols we wear point
people to you,
So that they too may know the joy of
your salvation.
Amen

Father God,
You invite us to join in your mission to the world
By sharing the good news of Jesus.
As we begin Wear Your Faith Fortnight,
Help us to be your ambassadors in the world
And to always be prepared to give a reason for the
hope that we have.
In Jesus' name,
Amen

Being a Light for Christ

As members of the Diocese of Sheffield, we re-affirm our calling to be Christ-like, living as lights for Christ in our everyday lives by:

Receiving Christ's light as his friends by

- Praying and seeking God's will
- Participating in the life and worship of the Church
- Reading and reflecting on the Scriptures
- Receiving Communion
- Opening our lives to the Holy Spirit

Walking in Christ's light as his followers by

- Enjoying God's gifts with gratitude
- Living by the teaching of Jesus
- Giving generously
- Giving and receiving forgiveness
- Balancing rest and work

Reflecting Christ's light to those around us

- Loving and praying for those we live and work with
- Sharing Jesus in our communities
- Serving those in need
- Challenging injustice and promoting peace
- Caring for God's creation