

**Matthew 6:10 – “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”**

While growing up as a child, I desired to have a good life, free of troubles as everyone would wish, but I soon realised that I live in a world where there will be trouble, but I have a God who can overcome the world with its trouble and promised to give me His peace (John 16: 33). The Lord teaches us to continually pray for His Kingdom to be established, a statement Jesus made in a very popular prayer which we pray at every worship – “thy Kingdom come, thy will be done” (Matthew 6: 10). Paul the Apostle tells us more about God’s Kingdom that “the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Romans 14: 17). The Kingdom of God is the reign of God’s righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

This has been the main theme of our message to you in 2023. We have earnestly sought in prayer that the Kingdom of God’s righteousness will be established among us, that we will

experience of God’s blessings on his church  
the statistics of the 2023 census of the Church  
in our Parish last month shows:  
The average attendance has now increased  
We had 1 Baptism in 2023  
The average number of children in our Parish  
Bible study has been running weekly  
people in attendance.  
In 2023 we had a week of mission across  
gospel was preached, there were communion  
which included a coronation lunch in the church  
involved in John Weir’s gospel mission in  
This year we have financially supported  
organisations including a new one in our Parish  
Fibreoptic Northern Ireland (PFNI).  
For all these, we are thankful to God and thank  
various ministries and development in the Parish

I would like to say thank you to every reader and volunteer of different ministry groups within the parish. Many thanks to Edna, Alma, and the choir members. A special thanks to the outgoing vestry members. Thank you to the Rector's churchwarden, the People's churchwarden, the Rector's glebe warden, the People glebe warden, the Honorary Secretary, and the Honorary treasurer. I want to thank every member of the congregation for all your support and kindness to our ministry.

As we look forward to electing new members of the Select vestry and trustees of this great parish, I want us to be encouraged that the presence of the Lord is with us. Therefore, let us allow the Spirit of God to guide our decision in choosing, let us refrain from allowing personal feelings to direct our choices and nomination.

I pray that the Lord bless his church, and grow his Kingdom filled with His Righteousness, His peace and joy in the Holy Spirit in this new year and beyond. Amen.

**Rev. George O. Okikiolu.**