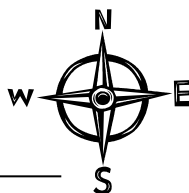


# Prayer Points



We are in a time that marks the transition from Spring to Summer; May - a month of rebirth and movement into warmth, long evenings and re-awakenings. Just look at the flowers opening and spreading their petals wide, see the glorious green canopies as the trees come into full leaf cover.

The harsh winter months are behind us and we can look forward, confidently to June and July – relishing the new season.

It's a time to rejoice and celebrate the natural beauty of the world that God has given us.

Eleanor Farjeon's *Morning Has Broken* evokes the beginning of each new summer day:

Mine is the sunlight; mine is the morning.  
Born of the one light Eden saw play.  
Praise with elation; praise every morning  
God's recreation of the new day.

Use this time to explore a new world of bright optimism. As Malcolm Guite, an English poet, Anglican priest and academic, says in his poem *First Steps*, it's time to leave the dark behind you:

Take the adventure, step beyond the hearth,  
Shake off at last the shackles that confined you,  
And find the courage for the forward path.  
You yearned for freedom through the long night watches,  
The day has come and you are free to choose,  
Now is your time and season.  
Companioned still by your familiar crutches,  
And leaning on the props you hope to lose,  
You step outside and widen your horizon.

*With thanks to Susan Pape for this month's Prayer Points*