



St. Mary's
Warwick's Church of Treasures

May 2017

Prayer Diary

6. Thank you for joining members of St Mary's in regular, prayerful support of our church, parish and town. If you would like to suggest ideas for prayer for next months' diary, please contact Kirsteen Robson at kirsteenr@gmail.com or on 07799 682872.

Mon 1

We give thanks for your gift of creation, and the exuberant explosion of new life evident this spring. Help us remember and relish our responsibility as stewards as we strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and do all we can to sustain and renew the life of the earth, starting today.

Tue 2

Thank you for our temperate climate, which provides enough water for our needs, and for the infrastructure that cleans and pipes it across the land. Please bless the workers who will be repairing our church's water main this week, that their task will be straightforward and that they will feel you with them as they work in the shadow of this building.

Wed 3

Today we pray for Mark Rigney as he joins the St Mary's team as Custos Premises. May he enjoy a warm welcome and find fulfilment in his new post. Bless his predecessor Keith Gillett as he retires from this role, that he and Rhoda may know you walking alongside them in this next chapter of their life.

Thu 4

We pray for today's County Council elections. Guide voters by their conscience and lead the successful candidate always to seek the common good. We pray for all attending tonight's vocations event "What is God asking of me?" at All Saints', asking you to grant them discernment in their considerations.

Fri 5

In these last days of consultation on the main modifications to the new Local Plan for Warwick District, we ask for your guiding hand on the process, that decisions are made that will benefit those whose need is greatest, with realistic and sensitive provision to support a community that will flourish.

Sat 6

Bless the Churches Together in Warwick Prayer Breakfast in church this morning, that all who attend may enjoy fellowship in you. We also pray for all on today's Church Sculpture Tour visit, that their experiences here may leave a lasting impression.

Sun 7

The Fourth Sunday
of Easter

We pray "Thank you for the music..." and remember all our musicians, in practices, services and broadcast recordings during Tom's last weeks here. Fill them with your spirit and use them as your instruments, to share your message with congregations near and far, to your greater glory.

Mon 8

Lord, let not our souls be busy inns that have no room for thee or thine, But quiet homes of prayer and praise, where thou mayest find fit company, Where the needful cares of life are wisely ordered and put away, And wide, sweet spaces kept for thee; where holy thoughts pass up and down And fervent longings watch and wait thy coming. *Julian of Norwich*

Tue 9

In this week of Mental Health Awareness, we remember all facing internal battles, especially those whose struggles are known only to you. Sustain them in their time of trial and keep hope alive. Keep us active in our listening and sensitive to the situations of others, that we may build supportive communities where surviving is nurtured into thriving.

Wed 10

We give thanks for foster carers in Warwickshire and pray you will add to their number by calling more people to open their homes and arms to support children and young people when their need is greatest. We lift up to you all who are entering foster care today, that they will find a place of safety where healing from their damaging experiences may begin.

Thu 11

As election campaigns intensify, we ask you to protect the integrity, health and stamina of our prospective parliamentary candidates. Guide their parties to form and commit to policies that reflect Kingdom values: that respond with compassion to those in need, seek to transform unjust structures in society, challenge violence and pursue peace and reconciliation.

Fri 12

We give thanks for the funds raised in Lent to buy a cow in calf for the CMM Sisters' Girls' Hostel in Masasi and ask for a safe birth and that both animals will flourish. We pray for the wellbeing of the girls as they are nourished by the milk and dairy produce, and other food bought by selling the surplus.

Sat 13

Thank you for inspiring Helen Fitzpatrick and the Warwick Poppies 2018 team with the vision for a project to unite the community in paying tribute and marking the centenary of the end of the First World War. Please bless the efforts to raise funds for advertising, and to erect a display to honour all who gave their lives for the freedoms we enjoy today.

Sun 14

The Fifth Sunday
of Easter

As Christian Aid Week begins we give thanks for all that has been achieved through this organisation since its founding 60 years ago. Support all involved in raising funds, especially those who are collecting money door-to-door. Please inspire people to respond generously to help relieve suffering and build a world where everyone has a safe place to call home.

Mon 15

We pray for Memory Café Plus, on its official launch at All Saints' this afternoon, and for the Alzheimer's Society coffee morning at James Court on Wednesday morning. May all who attend find the support, fellowship and information they need.

Tue 16

We pray for those being considered for the post of Director of Music, that their applications and interview performance do full justice to the skills and qualities you've given them. Guide the appointment panel as they discern the person you want for this role, who will lead this valuable ministry to congregations, townsfolk and the choristers themselves.

Wed 17

As the spring sunshine draws us outside, we remember with compassion all whose actions have denied them free air today. God of justice, forgiveness and restoration, have mercy on all those in prison, bring hope where there is brokenness and be present through the hours, days, months and years of long or short sentences. May all know that you alone are holy and in you alone is perfect forgiveness, newness and fullness of life.

Thu 18

We pray for this evening's Standing Committee meeting, that you will direct the discussions and developments of the agenda. We remember especially Vicky Bartholomew, being welcomed to her first meeting in her role as PCC Secretary.

Fri 19

Loud organs, thy glory forth tell in deep tone... Thank you for the privilege of a church organ and players who unite to fanfare your kingship, pour out your consolation and make the earth tremble in awe of your majesty. Please bless this year's organ recital series, that all who sit in church enfolded in sound may catch multi-coloured glimpses of you and be drawn deeper.

Sat 20

We pray today for all involved in sport locally, at all levels, and thank you for the benefits this brings them in mind and body. Bless those who give of their time and talents to organise, coach, lead and inspire, that those they teach may thrive as they learn teamwork, dedication, leadership and other skills.

Sun 21

The Sixth Sunday
of Easter

As we say farewell to Tom Corns we give thanks for his hard work, and dedication to our music and musicians. Grant him joy and fulfilment as Director of Music at Sheffield Cathedral. May he, Claire, James and Lucy soon settle in their new home and be welcomed in their new church family and social circles.

Mon 22

Thank you for the doctors and other healthcare professionals in our town's health centres, hospitals and hospice. We pray especially for those facing difficult ethical decisions this week or who are haunted by decisions made in the past. Be with them, lead them in wisdom and compassion, strengthen and reassure them as they treat the patients in their care.

Tue 23

With the CMM Sisters in Tanzania, we pray for their crops, that though watered as they were by long-delayed rains, their harvest will be enough to sustain them and to share with all who come to them begging for food. We humbly ask that there may still be a surplus to sell, to pay for their expenses, such as medical care and education of the younger Sisters.

Wed 24

We pray for individuals, groups and organisations in our town who are involved in ensuring the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Help us all to play our part by being vigilant, seeing what needs to be noticed and speaking out when concerns arise. We bring before you our own Safeguarding Team at St Mary's, who are meeting this evening.

Thu 25

Ascension Day

Alleluia! Alleluia! Risen, ascended, glorified! O God, you withdraw from our sight that you may be known by our love: help us to enter the cloud where you are hidden, and surrender all our certainty to the darkness of faith in Jesus Christ. Janet Morley

Fri 26

We pray for the needs of people living or working in Wallwin Place, Turberville Place, Ansell Way, Saltisford, Deerpark Drive and Sharpe Close. Please bless all who work at Saltisford Office Park, especially Warwickshire Education Services and Social Care and Support Services. Guide them as they stretch limited budgets to provide as best they can for their users.

Sat 27

We bring before you today all who visit Warwick Cemetery. Comfort them as they remember, and fill them with a sense of reassurance that there is life in death, and that you are the source of that life, in all its fullness, and you long to share it.

Sun 28

The Seventh Sunday
of Easter

Thank you that you promised not to leave your followers as orphans but that you would come to them and dwell within and among them by your Holy Spirit. Today we lift up before you Esther Spraggett, who is being baptised at noon. May your Holy Spirit rest on her and her family and may Esther grow to know you alongside her – in her heart and her life.

Mon 29

In this half-term holiday week, we give thanks for the park and landscape management teams who work so hard year round tending our public gardens and green spaces for the enjoyment of the community and visitors. Reward them with a deep sense of satisfaction that their labours contribute so much to the mental, physical and social health of so many.

Tue 30

We pray for those on our hearts who do not believe in you or do not see a need or a place for you in their lives. Shine on them with the warmth of your love, open their eyes to see the light of your truth, and remove the bonds that are keeping them from coming to you, that of their free will they may choose you, and in so doing, choose life.

Wed 31

The Visit of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
to Elizabeth

Remembering that John the Baptist leaped in his mother's womb in the presence of the unborn Jesus, and Elizabeth joyfully acknowledged the holiness of the child Mary carried, we pray that we too may respond positively when we sense Jesus in our lives, and recognise him in others we meet. And if we do not readily see him, help us persevere in our search.