



St. Mary's
Warwick's Church of Treasures

July 2017

Prayer Diary

8. This diary is intended as a starting point each day to help us support each other, our parish and the wider community through prayer. You're invited to use each prayer, subject or suggestion as you feel moved to do, to join members of St Mary's in a living, powerful, prayerful response to the needs of our town. Please do suggest ideas for next month's prayers (to Kirsteen Robson at kirsteen@gmail.com or on 07799 682872).

Sat 1

We thank you for the picture of the church as the body of Christ, and ask you to help us work for this vision locally. Bless the Thanksgiving and Remembrance service at Warwick Cemetery tomorrow afternoon, organised by Churches Together in Warwick. Be with all who come to remember loved ones, filling them with your peace, hope and love.

Sun 2

The Third Sunday
after Trinity

We pray for Alycia Timmis as she is ordained as a Deacon at Coventry Cathedral today. Strengthen and guide her as she grows in wisdom and experience. Grant her, and Mark and Miles, courage to accept the challenges, and grace to accept successes and disappointments in this new stage of ministry.

Mon 3

St Thomas the
Apostle

On the feast of St Thomas, we remember all who fear their faith is faltering. Grant them patience to persevere, and the reassurance of hope that your living streams will rise up in them to make their spiritual desert blossom. Give us grace to support and encourage with sensitivity as well as sincerity.

Tue 4

We give thanks for the crops flourishing on farms around our county and ask you to protect the harvest from pest, disease and extreme weather. Strengthen and sustain those who work on the land, especially as the implications for agriculture begin to emerge from Brexit negotiations.

Wed 5

Today we thank you that St Mary's Hall Trust can contribute financially to religious and charitable projects for local people. Grant the trustees discernment as they meet this evening to consider how best to use the resources in their stewardship.

Thu 6

We pray for Luke Thomas, Warwick's 20s-30s Development Leader. Bless tonight's 20s-30s Social to Star City, that those who come enjoy fellowship with each other and in your time be drawn through the Holy Spirit into encounter with you.

Fri 7

Guide each of us in prayer today for the people, communities and businesses of Peel Road, Lyttelton Road, Millers Road, Oken Road, Lock Lane, Ladbroke Park and St Mary's Close.

Sat 8

Thank you for the gift of love between two people expressed in the commitment of marriage. Today we pray for Lauren Gregory and Timothy Packer as they make these promises to each other. Grant them joy, patience and hope in the days, weeks and years ahead; that growing together and rooted in you they can be their best selves and be a blessing to others.

Sun 9

The Fourth Sunday
after Trinity

Today we remember Alice Timmis in her first service as our Assistant Curate and our ordinand Ben Jarvis as he starts his three-week placement with us. Help us give the welcome and support they need as they explore and share their skills and gifts, and identify their strengths and frailties. And as new relationships form and flourish, may we all gain fresh insights, inspiration and challenges in your service.

Mon 10

As we look through a window somewhere today, help us pull back our focus a little and remember with thanks all whose job is to ensure the glass is clean and light can shine through. Please protect all window cleaners, especially those who work high up, and when daylight and extremes of weather conditions make outdoor work uncomfortable or risky.

Tue 11

On World Population Day we lift up before you our world's 7.5 billion plus population and the issues that result from the combination of its size and the inequality in resources and wealth across nations. Guide leaders, policymakers, donors and advocates in their discussions at the 2017 Family Planning Summit in London today, that your will be done.

Wed 12

We give thanks for the Natural Church Development initiative, striving to help churches become all you want them to be. We pray for tonight's PCC meeting, and ask especially for your guidance in discussions about the results of the latest 8EQs survey. Grant wisdom to discern the steps, small or large that you want us to take, and the faith to take them, as part of your universal Church in this place.

Thu 13

Today we pray for the families and children of all who are serving prison sentences, that they will receive the practical, emotional and spiritual support they need in their individual situations. Let your grace and mercy rule in their lives bringing encouragement and healing from all that has gone wrong and the assurance of growth and peace for the future.

Fri 14

We bring before you those we know who are seeking you, and those who appear to deny you. Remove the barriers that keep them from you, so they may recognise your love and respond. Keep us faithful and hopeful in prayer for them.

Sat 15

Still our souls as we spend time with you today, Lord, and when all is ready, lead us in the prayers for each other, the church or the world that you would especially have us pray.

Sun 16

The Fifth Sunday
after Trinity

We celebrate with gratitude 35 years of care-giving at Myton Hospice, remembering the comfort and support given to so many patients and their loved ones during that time. Bless their Summer Fete today, that patients, families, friends and local supporters will experience joy as they come together to raise vital funds for this amazing expression of your love.

Mon 17

Thank you for the dedication, talent and hard work of Mark, William and the choirs. Please bless them as they break for the summer and may they return in September, refreshed and ready for the next stage of their musical and spiritual journey at St Mary's. We give thanks for the appointment of Oliver Hancock as our new Director of Music and pray for him as he prepares to take up his position and make his home here.

Tue 18

There are times in each life when there is no one. No one with whom to share a word, a laugh, a sad remembrance, a gentle touch, a fond embrace, a kiss of love. Bless each one who suffers from such loneliness. Enrich life with a friend or gentle stranger who will spend a moment noticing and loving. In those times your love shines through, the world is reborn, and Christ is known. So be it! *Vienna Cobb Anderson*

Wed 19

We give thanks for the work of the CMM Sisters in Tanzania with the increasing number of orphans there. Sustain their resources so they can provide school books and uniforms for over 100 orphans in the Masasi area schools, support nine children in their own nursery school at Newala, 19 in Njombe and a lively pair of baby twins. We pray for the flourishing of the children who receive your love through their care.

Thu 20

We pray for the aspiring young adult leaders representing Warwick and all our twinned towns at Eurocamp 2017, which starts today in Formigine, Italy. Bless them through the friendships formed and the cultures and ideas exchanged while they work together on a project for the local community.

Fri 21

As schools break up for the summer we pray that you will be with all children and staff. May their homes be places of joy, relaxation and safety. We remember especially those for whom the summer holidays are a time of stress, intensified conflict, abuse or neglect and ask you to bring peace and healing.

Sat 22

We pray for Henry Skudra and Rachel Poole as they make their marriage vows today. May they draw ever closer in love to each other and to you, supported by those who love them.

Sun 23

The Sixth Sunday
after Trinity

As we reflect on today's Gospel parable of the weeds (Matt. 13), help us see and examine the weeds growing in the field of our own spiritual lives, and offer what we find there to your tender, loving mercy. Help us also identify our 'wheat stalks' and nurture them that the weeds will not choke them.

Mon 24

On Samaritans Awareness Day we give thanks for your love in action through this organisation and the dedication of its volunteers, and praise you for the many lives improved or saved as a result. We pray that Samaritans will continue to find the funding it needs to train and support its volunteers, provide free phone lines and advertise effectively so people in need of listening support always have somewhere to turn.

Tue 25

With more families on tight budgets struggling to feed their children during the school holidays we pray that local councils, schools and community groups will work well together to find ways to provide breakfast or lunch for those who need it. Bless St Michael, Budbrooke's MakeLunch project, that over the summer's Tuesday lunches relationships may grow between the families who come and the volunteers. (www.makelunch.org.uk)

Wed 26

We pray for our town's civil enforcement officers and others whose jobs put them in a difficult position between their employers and those affected by their duties. May fairness, good sense and compassion be valued in word and deed at every level in the organisations in which they work, and may people control their reactions in their frustration to see the individuals beneath the uniforms, so they can work safely and without fear.

Thu 27

As the Warwick Folk Festival begins we give you thanks and praise for the power of music to give expression both to the rainbows and the shadows of human experience. Inspire all who perform and listen as they share through the words and melodies glimpses of each other's story resonating with the wider human story, and call each to a deeper understanding of the place you long for them to take in your story.

Fri 28

We pray for craftspeople, food companies and other traders preparing for tomorrow's Smith Street Party. May it benefit both traders and visitors and strengthen the local community.

Sat 29

We bring before you the marriages of Amy Batchelor and Paul Gleeson, and of Louise Hogg and Robert Wilson. Go with them as they step out from St Mary's into their new lives together.

Sun 30

The Seventh Sunday
after Trinity

I saw a stranger today. I put food for him in the eating-place
And drink in the drinking-place
And music in the listening-place.
In the Holy name of the Trinity
He blessed myself and my family.
And the lark said in her warble
Often, often, often
Goes Christ in the stranger's guise.
O, oft and oft and oft,
Goes Christ in the stranger's guise. (*Celtic Rune of Hospitality*)

Mon 31

On the centenary of the start of Passchendaele we remember with grief and gratitude those who lost their lives in this Third Battle of Ypres, especially the men of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. May tonight's Warwick Poppies Workshop start to prepare a fitting display to commemorate the sacrifices made.