



St. Mary's
Warwick's Church of Treasures

August 2017

Prayer Diary

9. This diary is intended as a starting point each day to help us support the people of our church, parish and wider community through prayer. Feel free to use each prayer, subject or idea as you feel moved to. You might consider praying for opportunities (and possibly the courage!) to share a prayer with another. Please do suggest ideas for next month's prayers (to Kirsteen Robson at kirsteenr@gmail.com or on 07799 682872).

Tue 1

We pray for the safety of all travelling on the roads at this time: occupational drivers, commuters, holiday-makers, and those on errands of routine, sorrow or joy. We remember those whose lives have been changed by road accidents and ask you to tend them with your comfort, healing and hope.

Wed 2

Lord, today is Earth Overshoot Day: we have now used more from nature than our planet can renew in a year... Inspire and empower your church to engage more deeply in caring for the earth you have placed in our stewardship, that we may join those already exploring solutions for sustainable living and encourage others to do the same. (www.overshootday.org)

Thu 3

We pray for those visiting the area this summer, that they will experience something that enriches their lives. Bless all who come into St Mary's with a sense of having connected with you who are at the same time in this world and beyond it. We remember with thanks our team of receptionists and shop staff. May they know you with them at quiet times and busy as they welcome and serve all comers on the church's behalf.

Fri 4

Today we bring before you this morning's Visitor and Visitor Events meeting and tonight's Croquet Evening. May both events in their own way help to grow, strengthen and sustain the community of St Mary's as your people serving in this place.

Sat 5

Father, who knows the needs of all, we lift before you those who live, work or worship in St Christopher's Close, Upper Cape, Lower Cape, Saltisford, Sir Thomas White Close and Cape Court. May they know you living and loving in their lives.

Sun 6

The
Transfiguration
of our Lord

In a quiet time, Lord, lead us up the mountain to the meeting place where earth and heavens touch. May the light of Jesus shine on us. May your word, the law of Moses and prophets' teaching, speak to us, restore us and show us the way. May the cloud of your presence assure us that we need not fear all we do not know. May we hear your voice, 'This is my Son, listen to him!' Then, lead us down, lead us out: to ministry, to people.

Mon 7

Thank you for the work of those organising today's parish trip to the National Memorial Arboretum. Bless all who go with the opportunity to remember, learn, reflect and give thanks. May the stories of those whose earthly lives ended prematurely in the service of others become part of visitors' own stories and in time, through Warwick Poppies 2018, become part of the story of St Mary's, our town and beyond.

Tue 8

Thank you for the Warwick Team clergy. Continue to grant them quality time to study as they seek to remind us of your truths. Encourage them as they counsel those who are hurting, visit those who are sick, guide the church and pray for the needs of many. We pray for Alycia and Vaughan, meeting tomorrow with Naomi Nixon to review Alycia's first month of curacy.

Wed 9

Mary Sumner

On the commemoration day of its founder, Mary Sumner, we remember with thanks the Mothers' Union and all it does to offer Christian care for families, regardless of faith or background. We pray especially for the Warwick area MU, two years old today, which meets on the 9th of each month.

Thu 10

As National Allotment Week continues, we remember all whom you nourish, literally and figuratively, as they care for allotment gardens in our town. Thank you for the satisfaction received in preparing and planting, tending and harvesting. We give thanks too for the committees, plot-holders and councils who manage, create, develop and safeguard sites, and ask you to help them preserve these spaces for future generations.

Fri 11

Clare of Assisi

'What good will it be for a person if they gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?' (Matt. 16.26) On the festival day of Clare of Assisi, we give you thanks for the example of those in all walks of life who trust you utterly for everything. Lead us today to see what you want us to relinquish to your care.

Sat 12

On International Youth Day we thank you for young people's contributions to conflict prevention and transformation. We pray for our town's young people. Inspire them to trust you'll work through them to bring social justice and lasting peace.

Sun 13

The Ninth Sunday
after Trinity

Living Lord, give us courage to step out like Peter, in faith and obedience, following where you lead. Keep our eyes fixed in trust on Jesus as we waded through life's rough waters and glide on its calm. Bless Edward Selley on his baptism day, and grant those who care for him love, wisdom and faith, that he may grow with your guiding light ever within and before him.

Mon 14

God of power and might, strength and support, we remember with thanks those who work in prisons. Give them grace and courage to persevere, and the desire to seek new ways to serve faithfully, to recognise your presence in every situation and to make your love and mercy known to all.

Tue 15

The Blessed
Virgin Mary

Almighty God, who looked upon the lowliness of Mary and chose her to be the mother of your only Son: grant that we who are redeemed by his blood may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Wed 16

Today we remember with gratitude all who work to remove dirt and disorder – in homes, shops, institutions, offices and public places. Bless them with satisfaction in their work, and keep us mindful to notice and appreciate their labours.

Thu 17

Lord, please be with all affected by exam results today and in the weeks ahead. Rejoice with those whose results have made their next steps feel secure; comfort and encourage all who are disappointed and disorientated. Support and guide them as they reassess their options, that they may know your peace and look back to see your hands at work in their lives.

Fri 18

Today we pray for all who are angry: with themselves, with others, with you. We think of those whose hurt makes them lash out, push others or you away, and those whose emotions corrode like cancer from within. Pour the healing balm of your loving forgiveness into even the oldest, deepest wounds, restoring relationship with you, that lives may be made whole, and your saving love may be spread throughout the world.

Sat 19

On World Humanitarian Day we give thanks for aid workers who risk their lives in the service of others. Please protect them and all civilians who are affected by conflict. Stir the minds and hearts of ordinary people and world leaders so the targeting of civilians may become universally unacceptable.

Sun 20

The Tenth Sunday
after Trinity

As we are reminded of the faith of the Canaanite woman, we thank you that your love and mercy are offered to all. Help us share generously what we've received, that your kingdom may grow. We give thanks for Ollie Saunders-Maltby, being brought to baptism today. May he grow and thrive knowing he is loved by a heavenly father and the whole family of God.

Mon 21

Lord of all, we ask you to hold close those who feel that they don't quite fit into the groups their churches offer. Reassure them of your love, give them courage to voice their concerns, and may these be accepted with sensitivity and compassion. Shine your light to reveal anything that risks being exclusive.

Tue 22

We hold before you any we know feeling vulnerable through illness. Comfort and sustain them with your Spirit, we pray.

Wed 23

Thank you for the ministry of hospital and hospice chaplains and all they do to comfort, reassure and walk beside patients and families facing all that their individual situations bring. Give them the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual resources they need to serve you by serving others in this way.

Thu 24

Bartholomew
the apostle

Thank you, Lord, for Malala, the Tanzanian CMM Sisters' cow. Please keep her healthy and rich in milk to nourish the girls at the Masasi hostel. Help the Sisters sustain the support they give to over 130 children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, both in providing uniforms and stationery and more directly in their nursery school in Newala and primary school in Njombe. We also ask you to bless their work in supporting clergy widows.

Fri 25

Heavenly Father, whose name is Love, weave yourself ever deeper into the lives of Catherine Moxted-Cheadle and Alan Armstrong, marrying in St Mary's this afternoon. Bless their home and families, that on foundations of kindness, patience, forgiveness and mutual respect they may build enduring relationships, rich in joy and laughter, that are a blessing to all.

Sat 26

Guide us in prayer, Lord, as we give thanks for the work of all from whom we've benefited today: tea-pickers, textile workers, oil-rig engineers, research scientists, hauliers, shop assistants, MPs... Then hold them and us in you as we consider the cost of that work: aching backs, children with an absent parent, mental stress... and lead us in humble acceptance to offer thanks again.

Sun 27

The Eleventh
Sunday after Trinity

'But what about you... who do you say I am?' (Matt. 16.15)
Living and life-giving God, hold us close as we answer Jesus's question for ourselves, and reveal to us the implications of our response... Bless Louie Turpin, being baptised today. May he grow and flourish in awareness that he is your beloved child, and recognise Jesus as his brother and his Lord.

Mon 28

Augustine of Hippo

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, That my thoughts may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit, That my work, too, may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, That I love but what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, To defend all that is holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, That I always may be holy. *A of H*

Tue 29

The Beheading of
John the Baptist

We pray for all who are treated as pawns in the power games of others: for political prisoners, workers with manipulative employers, those trapped in abusive relationships, children caught between embittered parents... Fill them with hope of justice and release, and equip your people to bring it to them.

Wed 30

Today we give thanks for the benefits the internet can bring: easy information, quick communication and global communities. Save its users from its snares: from superficial social media relationships, bullying, misinformation, addiction to life online. Empower IT specialists to illumine its darkest corners, leaving nowhere for child pornography and other evil to lurk and breed.

Thu 31

Please protect people who are reported missing, and bring them help in whatever form they need it. Comfort the people who worry for them with the knowledge that those they miss are not lost from your sight or beyond reach of your love.