



**St. Mary's**  
Warwick's Church of Treasures

# September 2017

## Prayer Diary

*10. This diary is offered as a starting point each day to help support the people of this church, parish and wider community through prayer. Feel free to use prayers as you feel moved to, maybe just using the subject or an idea. You might consider praying for opportunities to share a prayer with another, or asking someone if there is anything they would like us to pray for. (Extra copies are available at the back of church, and from the newsletters section of St Mary's Church website.) Please do share your ideas for next month's prayers (with Kirsteen Robson at [kirsteenr@gmail.com](mailto:kirsteenr@gmail.com) or on 07799 682872).*

**Fri 1**

At the start of Blue September, we hold in our prayers all who are affected by prostate cancer. May they experience your healing love, both through the skill and compassionate care of medical professionals and in the support of families and friends. Bless the efforts to raise funds for equipment that can reduce diagnosis times from months to days, so more men may be successfully treated for this disease.

**Sat 2**

We pray for all who drive along the A46 today, whether on their way into town or just passing by. As they see the church tower on the skyline, remind them that you watch over all their comings and goings, and want to share their journey.

**Sun 3**

Twelfth Sunday  
after Trinity

Please bless Aurora Cox and Ellie-Mae Dawes, being baptised this morning, and Lily Mae North who was baptised in July. As they grow in body and in faith may they seek and find you: may they worship you as their Lord, follow you as their guide, obey you as their master, and love you as their friend.

**Mon 4**

We pray for all children and staff at the beginning of this new school year. Bless our school communities, that they may nurture confidence and ability as pupils learn new skills and explore the world around them. We ask you especially to be with children who are going to school for the first time, and for teachers and young people moving to new schools.

**Tue 5**

As final preparations are made for tonight's launch of Warwick Poppies 2018, we thank you for the positive response to this project already received from so many. May it bless our community and beyond as people of all ages work side by side to honour and commemorate the sacrifice by those who fought and those who fell in the First World War.

**Wed 6**

Lord, we pray for all who live and work in Chandley Wharf, Chandley Row, Cape Road, Hanworth Road and Landor Road: may each person be aware of your presence with them today.

**Thu 7**

Lord of all time, we thank you for our country's rich history and an awareness of the past that at its best can engender belonging and offer valuable lessons. On this first of four Heritage Open Days, we pray especially for all who will be visiting places of Christian worship and ask you to give them a glimpse of past, present and future united through Jesus. Bless those serving in St Mary's pop-up café, that along with tea and cake they may share your hospitality and refreshment.

**Fri 8**

Reading this prayer today, we thank you for the gift of literacy and the written word that opens wide a door to the world, and we remember the one in five adults worldwide who are as yet locked out. Inspire governments, organisations, communities and individuals to devise, fund and deliver more effective strategies to further promote literacy. Please bless all who teach literacy skills locally, nationally and overseas.

**Sat 9**

Lord of life, wholeness and healing, we lift before you those who are overwhelmed by their circumstances and who see no solution except self-destruction. Be with them: hold them, love them, and lead them where they can receive the help they need. We pray for all who offer counselling and support.

**Sun 10**

Thirteenth Sunday  
after Trinity

This Education Sunday we give thanks for all who serve in education, particularly Christian education, in Warwick. At St Mary's we ask that you'll continue to guide and inspire Mark Swinton and Catherine Watkins in their work with our young people, and those who teach people of all ages in our services. Grant each of us wisdom, and awareness day by day of the lessons our words and actions teach others about you.

**Mon 11**

We pray for all who administer justice. Fill with wisdom and truth all who feel they've lost their way in a system under stress. Renew their vision and give them grace to exercise power and authority in new ways, seeking to transform and restore the relationships that bind our communities together.

**Tue 12**

Today we pray for all who find themselves needing help from the children who once depended on them, and we remember those of all ages who've become their parent's/s' carers. Bless, protect and enrich their relationships as the dynamics adjust, granting patience, love and good humour to all concerned.

**Wed 13**

Father, you sent your son Jesus into the world with nothing, yet with everything he needed. Jesus sent out his disciples with nothing, yet you saw that their every need was met. Grant all your people courage and grace to trust in your promise to provide, that we may confidently share the gifts you've given.

**Thu 14**

We pray for the Standing Committee, meeting this evening. Guide their discussions and decisions that these may reflect ever more closely your priorities for your church in this place.

**Fri 15**

We pray for people who are living with chronic pain, fatigue, or any other impairment that is not immediately apparent to others. Strengthen and sustain them with the knowledge that you see the challenges they face. Tweak our antennae when we make assumptions about ability, that without patronising or prying we may create communities sensitive to the needs of all.

**Sat 16**

Thank you for the generous determination of those who raise funds to help others, and for all who give money to support these causes. Today we ask to you bless all taking part in this evening's Myton Hospice Glow in the Dark 5K in St Nicholas' Park. We also pray for Steve Atherton, taking on 56 challenges in a year to raise money for Helping Hands.

**Sun 17**

Fourteenth Sunday  
after Trinity

Merciful God, when we're tempted to judge others, whether face to face or from a distance, please remind us of the unmerciful servant (*Matt. 18.21-35*). Do not let us overlook how much we ourselves have been forgiven, but grant us wisdom, patience and above all, love, in all our relationships.

**Mon 18**

We pray for those responsible for refining the final bids of Coventry, Paisley, Stoke-on-Trent, Sunderland and Swansea for UK City of Culture 2021. Guide the decisions of those who will consider them so your will may be done. May the visions and ideas inspire good things regardless of the result, that the people of each city may receive your blessing.

**Tue 19**

Lord, enlighten our understanding today as we linger on each line of the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples: Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

**Wed 20**

We pray for Warwick District's Local Plan, expected to be formally adopted into the council's planning policy today. May it be implemented with sense and sensitivity supported by honest dealing, creative problem solving, thoughtful design, careful construction and a genuine commitment to the community.

**Thu 21**

St Matthew

On this International Day of Prayer for Peace, we pray for respect, safety and dignity for everyone forced to flee their home in search of a better life. Help us recognise and resist any efforts to divide communities and portray migrants as 'the other'. Keep us strong in our support of human rights that together we may build bridges and transform fear into hope.

**Fri 22**

We give thanks for the benefits that transport can offer to the lives of many, yet mourn the impact this has on the health of your planet and people. Keep us mindful in our journey choices each day and guide those who plan the infrastructure locally and nationally, enabling them to take a long-term view.

**Sat 23**

Lord, the source of all true love, we pray for Jennifer Green and Joe Stevens, who are marrying this afternoon. Grant them joy of heart, seriousness of mind and reverence of spirit, that as they enter into the oneness of marriage they may be strengthened and guided by you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Sun 24**

Fifteenth Sunday  
after Trinity

Loving God, in our plenty we do not appreciate all that we have. Grateful for our abundance, help us not to forget those whose harvest is meagre and limited. Celebrating the harvest, help us not to forget those who bring it to our tables. Genuine in our thanks, help us to be generous in our giving. *Donald Hilton*

**Mon 25**

As university terms begin, we remember all who are living and studying away from home, especially for the first time, and we pray for families whose part is now to open their hands and let them spread their wings. Guide and protect students and those who love them as they all explore and experience new freedoms, opportunities and anxieties. Reassure them with the knowledge that no worry is too big or small to share with you.

**Tue 26**

Lord, we encounter so many languages day by day and we do not understand many of them – languages of country and community, of culture, politics and religion. But the language of your love needs no translation. Make us fluent in it, that we may communicate confidently, overcoming awkwardness, knowing that you want your people everywhere to be one.

**Wed 27**

Thank you for the love you show to and through the CMM Sisters in Tanzania, and for the work of their Sayuni health station in the SW Highlands. Thank you that funds have been promised to help them provide an ambulance to transport very sick patients, whom they cannot attend, to the nearest hospital. May matters progress smoothly so this money is forthcoming, that more lives may be saved in your name.

**Thu 28**

All-seeing God, you know the thoughts, words and actions of all: we pray for those whose job brings the responsibility of confidentiality, especially when knowledge becomes a heavy weight to bear. Reassure them that you share this burden, and lead them to appropriate sources of support when needed.

**Fri 29**

Michael and  
All Angels

*Michael, Michael: Michael of the Morning...  
...Thou that in thunder threwest down the Dragon  
Knowest in what silence the Serpent can return... (G.K. Chesterton)*  
Heavenly Father, Lord of all in Earth and Heaven, keep us ever watchful for the work of the one who would undermine your kingdom; keep us faithful in spirit and persistent in prayer.

**Sat 30**

On its publication day we ask for your blessing on *Leading by Story*, written by Vaughan our Vicar and David Sims. May it inspire its readers and help them do your work in the world.