

You're warmly invited to support the people of this church, parish and wider community through prayer. This diary is intended to provide a daily starting point, so use each prayer or subject as you wish. You might also consider sharing a prayer with another or asking others how we can support them in prayer. This month's diary includes four prayer suggestions from regular diary users, which is great! Do please keep on sharing your ideas. (Contact Kirsteen Robson at kirsteenr@gmail.com or on 07799 682872).

Fri 1

As the Christmas countdown starts for many, we pray that each calendar window opened or candle lit will be a prompt for reflection on the world's need and each person's need for the light of Christ's love. We pray for the Warwick Advent Calendar, starting this evening at St Paul's. Bless all involved, that everyone may hear afresh your message of hope and joy.

Sat 2

We pray for all performers and listeners who'll share music in St Mary's this month, and the causes the proceeds will support. Please bless The Gentlemen of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace (tonight), St Mary's Scholars (9th), The York Waits (12th), Coventry Philharmonic Choir (16th), Da Capo (19th), Armonico Consort (21st) and St James's Singers (23rd).

Sun 3

The First Sunday
of Advent

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming...
We pray for all taking part in this morning's Christingle service, that the meaning behind the orange, ribbon, sweet-sticks and flame will be remembered long after the treats are gone. Bless our knitted Posada figures, that they may offer to all who see them in the hospital, hospice and school the reminder of the simplicity and joy of the first Christmas. And we pray for the choir and congregation at tonight's Advent Carol Service.

Mon 4

In Anger Awareness Week we lift before you all whose relationships with themselves, with others and with you are blighted by anger that struggles to find a healthy resolution. Please bring to them the help they need for healing to begin.

Tue 5

On International Volunteer Day we thank you for all who freely share their time and skills to improve the lives of others. Keep our eyes open for opportunities to serve others in your name. Inspire and refresh Alycia our Curate on a two-day retreat.

Wed 6

Nicholas

We pray for our young people, that those who need to may come to value the difference between needing and desiring and that all may experience the joy of giving and sharing. May they know and recognise Love as the greatest gift of all.

Thu 7

Please bless everyone attending school carol concerts and services this month. Touch each heart and mind in the way you know to be needed. We remember especially the pupils, staff and supporters of King's High and Warwick Prep (7th), Warwick Prep (13th), Warwick Seniors (14th), Warwick Lower School (15th), King's High (15th) and Myton School (22nd).

Fri 8

Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

We pray for all who are taking part in St Mary's contribution to the Warwick Advent Calendar. May enough supporters gather to arouse curiosity from passers-by, that our witness may reach as many people as possible. We remember those whom you are calling who have not yet heard your voice and we pray for the removal of obstacles that stand between you.

Sat 9

Today we pray for all who work in shops. Please grant them the energy and patience they need at this busy time and may their work be noticed and acknowledged. We remember all who own or manage shops and businesses, especially those who are anxious in their responsibility for those they employ.

Sun 10

The Second Sunday
of Advent

We thank you for all who gave their time and talents to make the Christmas Tree Festival a success and we pray that visitors were lifted by their experience. May those who hung hearts on the Memory Tree in your presence be comforted with the knowledge that their loved ones, and they, are in your care.

Mon 11

We pray that the church's Big Clean tomorrow morning may be a well-supported time of service, achievement and fellowship. As your house is swept clean, polished and readied to welcome all your people this Christmas, help us to examine and clear the clutter from our lives and hearts so they are ready to receive Jesus, your light and love. O come, Emmanuel!

Tue 12

We remember all the people whose lives have been changed forever by the war in Afghanistan: surround them with your healing love. We give thanks for the work of the military charities, thinking today of the Royal Marines Charity and Help for Heroes. We continue to pray for peace.

Wed 13

Lord of healing, we thank you for all who provide healthcare locally. Strengthen and sustain them mentally and physically during the winter months when the pressures are greater and resources are further stretched. We pray especially for the staff and patients at Cape Road Surgery and Priory Medical Centre: bless their new administrative relationship that it may run smoothly and for the benefit of all.

Thu 14

Silence is God's first language. Seek by reading and you will find by meditating. Knock by praying, and it will be opened to you in contemplation. (John of the Cross) Lord, help us step out of our busyness today to simply be with you. Still us, mind and body, that we may experience and enjoy silence, and find you there.

Fri 15

We give thanks for the work of Save the Children bringing essential healthcare, education, protection and food to millions of children around the world. Move people to respond generously to today's Christmas Jumper Day fundraising appeal, that many more lives may be saved and futures transformed.

Sat 16

We pray for our musicians and their families in their most hectic month, as they take their music out into the town, from the chilly castle compound to halls, hotels and hospitals. Give them stamina and good health as they share the Christmas message, and grant them enough energy still to enjoy their own celebrations next week when their work is done.

Sun 17

The Third Sunday
of Advent

Today we pray that the power of your Holy Spirit will work through the words and music at the Candlelit Carol Services this evening and on Friday, to stir souls and bring comfort, hope and joy to all who hear them. We give thanks that BBC Coventry & Warwickshire Radio will be recording tonight's service and ask for your blessing on all who will join the congregation across the airwaves at Christmas and beyond.

Mon 18

Bring comfort and hope to all who are anxious and weary with the constant struggle to make ends meet financially, and help those who feel trapped in a downward spiral of debt to find the support they need to gain their freedom. Teach us to appreciate that all we have you give us in trust. Show us ways to use our gifts with integrity to help others and to challenge the causes of poverty, to create a society that is fair for all.

Tue 19

As we give thanks for the CMM Sisters in Tanzania and Zambia, we ask you to bless their young Sisters sitting final exams at secondary school and college. May they do well enough to be able to continue their education, or to complete it, return to their Houses and use their new and enhanced gifts to fulfil the vocation of their Community, serving you by serving others.

Wed 20

Thank you for the Warwick band of bellringers who skilfully and faithfully ring at services and celebrations throughout the year, bringing cheer and comfort, and calling people to prayer and praise. Bless them as they prepare to ring out from tower and steeple your good news that Christ is born for all.

Thu 21

God of hope, keep hope alive in our prisons. Help those who work there to overcome the difficulties of their job in spite of shortages of money and staff. Give grace and strength to staff and volunteers so they can support one another and give of their best to help and encourage those in their care, that these in turn may lead responsible lives on their release.

Fri 22

We pray for all who are travelling this Christmastide by road, rail, sea and air. Keep drivers and pilots calm and alert, that they and their passengers may arrive safely at their destinations.

Sat 23

Comfort and protect all who have no home, especially people who are sleeping rough. Thank you for those who offer them food, shelter and clothing as well as direction to sources of advice and support to improve their circumstances in the longer term. May all who need help at this time receive it.

Sun 24

Christmas Eve

We pray for our Christmas congregations, coming together like extended family to celebrate Jesus's birth. May this time shared in your presence be one of joy and renewal, bringing us closer to you and to each other in Christ, and preparing us all to be bearers of Christ's light into the dark places of the world.

Mon 25

Christmas Day

Hallelujah! For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given! May the wisdom of the Wonderful Counsellor enlighten us, the strength of the Mighty God empower us, the love of the Everlasting Father enfold us and the peace of the Prince of Peace be about us, this day, and all days. (David Adam, adapted)

Tue 26

Stephen, Deacon,
First Martyr

We give thanks for the ups and downs of family life and ask you to bring healing where relationships are bruised or broken. We remember all who are facing altered family circumstances this Christmas, especially after bereavement, separation or divorce. May your love give comfort and hope as they grieve.

Wed 27

John, Apostle
and Evangelist

Thank you for the power of your word as revealed to John, resonating across the centuries to proclaim to all the truth that Jesus is your Son, the Christ, and that by believing we may have eternal life in his name. Inspire us by John's example to share with others all we have seen and heard, that they too may know you as their living God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Thu 28

The Holy
Innocents

As we remember the dire consequences of Herod's acts of insecurity, we pray for all children and young people today who find themselves in danger when the emotions of adults erupt into violence. Keep them safe and give wisdom to friends, teachers and others who can bring protection to them. We pray too for adults who struggle to control their feelings, that they may find healthy ways to work out their frustrations.

Fri 29

Lord, we bring before you today the needs of all who work and live in Old Square, New Street, Market Place, Market Street, Swan Street and Brook Street. May the chiming bells or a glimpse of the tower catch their attention, remind them of your eternal presence and reassure them of your loving interest in all they do.

Sat 30

Thank you for all who work hard so others may enjoy their leisure. May their efforts be more frequently appreciated.

Sun 31

The First Sunday
of Christmas

Loving Father, be with us as we consider the joys and blessings, sorrows and disappointments of this year. Thank you for times when we have lived as your followers and forgive us for times when we've fallen short. We offer up our hopes and fears and ask you guard and guide us on our journey in the year ahead.