



St. Mary's
Warwick's Church of Treasures

January 2018

Prayer Diary

Welcome, especially if this is the first time you are using the prayer diary! 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 it as you like. Perhaps you might consider asking others how we can support them in prayer. Do share your prayer suggestions with Kirsteen Robson at kirsteenr@gmail.com or on 07799 682872.

Mon 1

The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
"What's in a name?" Jesus... Jesus, Jeshua, Yeshua, Yehoshua... God saves! As we spend time in your presence this day, Lord, lead us towards a greater understanding of this precious name, and what it means for us. Bless us and keep us, make your face to shine upon us and be gracious to us, turn your face towards us and give us peace today and every day. Amen.

Tue 2

As the New Year encourages us to fresh resolutions we thank you for your Holy Spirit dwelling within us, spurring us to do better where we may be too easily tempted to settle for less. Keep us mindful that unless you build the house, its builders labour in vain, and also that with you, all things are possible. Guide our decisions, then give us the humility to rely not on our own resources but on you, that in our weakness we may be strong.

Wed 3

At the beginning of the new academic term we pray for all who have important exams this year, that they may start to prepare in good time, seek help where they need it, and be both challenged and reassured by the knowledge that if they do their best, no one can reasonably ask anything more.

Thu 4

On World Braille Day we give thanks for the life-changing work of Louis Braille. We pray for the worldwide adoption of the Marrakesh Treaty, that would allow copyright exceptions for published works to be made widely available in accessible formats, and so enable visual impairment organisations to share their resources with organisations in developing countries that may otherwise be unable to produce books for their blind citizens.

Fri 5

Today we bring before you the needs of all who live and work in Church Street, Puckering's Lane, Bowling Green Street, The Holloway, High Street and Leicester Place.

Sat 6

The Epiphany

We thank you for all people who take time to set aside their own concerns and pray for the needs of others, remembering especially those attending today's Churches Together in Warwick Prayer Breakfast at St Mary Immaculate at 7.30 am.

Sun 7

Baptism of Christ
The First Sunday
of Epiphany

Lord, inspire and guide us as we meditate on the reading for Epiphany (*Matthew 2.1-9*). Reveal afresh the significance then and now of key words: wise men... from the East... worship... the star went ahead... opened their treasures... gifts... gold... incense... myrrh... We pray for all attending today's services, as we offer the treasures you have given us to give.

Mon 8

We remember with gratitude all who support our choirs on the chaperones rota and we pray that more volunteers will come forward to sit in on rehearsals, especially in the terms ahead until a new Organ Scholar can join the team.

Tue 9

We give thanks that Coventry will be UK City of Culture 2021. May the region's common life and economy flourish as people from diverse communities draw together to share and celebrate our rich culture. Guide and bless the Cathedral's role in preparations and celebrations. May this opportunity be a new beginning for Coventry, for her Cathedral, for its international role in peace and reconciliation, and for its future.

Wed 10

As we read Mark's account of Jesus healing Simon's mother-in-law (2:29) we thank you for your healing power at work today, for the skills of medical researchers and practitioners and advances in diagnosis and treatment in many areas. We bring before you all on our hearts who are ill at this time.

Thu 11

As the Standing Committee convenes for its first meeting of 2018 we give thanks for the commitment of its members, and of the whole PCC (meeting on the 24th). Guide them all in the challenges that lie ahead this year as they seek to discern your course for this church, its building, people and ministry. Bless and strengthen them as they do their best to steer along it.

Fri 12

We pray for the children and families of both offenders and of victims, whose lives may have been devastated by crimes of which they are innocent. Send your Spirit to heal damaged and broken relationships. Support those who have been wounded and affected by the consequences of crime and restore them to fullness of life. Rebuild hope and trust, that pressing on in faith, a sense of recovery becomes possible.

Sat 13

Today we pray for the Healing on the Streets team as they minister in the market place. May your presence encourage passers-by to slow, stop and engage, and may these encounters be as stepping stones between earth and heaven, that more people may come to know you and be healed along the way.

Sun 14

The Second Sunday
of Epiphany

We ask you to bless our choirs, Mark and our new Director of Music, Oliver, as they start a new term and a fresh chapter in their lives. May the words and the music nourish them as they prepare and perform, that in turn those who hear may drink more deeply of your Eternal Word and be satisfied.

Mon 15

SilEnt...liStEn...SilEnt...liStEn... O Lord who speaks with a still, small voice, help us hush our inward chatter and attend fully on you with the ears of our hearts. **SilEnt...liStEn...** Help us hush our chatter and give another the priceless gift of being heard.

Tue 16

We pray for the people whom society has forgotten, those who do not have an awareness day, a celebrity advocate or a pithy hashtag. Unlovely? Unlovable? Unloved? Not in your name, Lord! Show them that you see them and you love them, that they are your precious children, and you their loving parent. Guide us to express that love to them in the form they need.

Wed 17

On the eve of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we remember Jesus's prayer that all who believe in you might be one, and we recognise the urgent need for reconciliation within the church as well as in the world at large. As we share the prayers addressing issues faced by the Caribbean church, strengthen us in the knowledge that we are uniting with our family in Christ across nations, cultures and languages.

Thu 18

The Week of Prayer
for Christian Unity
Day 1

Barrier-breaking God, you embrace all cultures and lands, but keep a special place in your heart for the stranger, the widow and the orphan. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may become as you are, welcoming all as brothers and sisters, your cherished children, citizens together in Christ's kingdom of justice and peace. Amen

Fri 19

WPCU ~ Day 2

Just and righteous God, you called your people out of slavery and onwards to the new humanity where all are one in Christ Jesus our Lord. Enfold with your love those trafficked as slaves today. Empower your Church to denounce and work to end that evil trade, living out the love and compassion of Christ as we tend its victims. Amen.

Sat 20

WPCU ~ Day 3

God of beauty, you made us in your image, endowed us with a loveliness little lower than the angels'. Save us from the exploitation of each other's bodies. For the sake of Christ, who became flesh and reigns in glory, teach us that our bodies are sacraments of grace, and vessels of your beauty. Amen.

Sun 21

WPCU ~ Day 4

Reconciling God, Christ's nail-pierced hands are your intent from eternity. You call us to be signs of peace in the midst of violence, the embodiment of hope in the midst of despair. May Christ so live in us that we might spend and be spent in his ministry of reconciliation. Amen.

Mon 22

WPCU ~ Day 5

God of the poor and dispossessed, you hear the cries of your despised ones. You look with favour on the lowly and bring down the powerful from their thrones. Hear our cries for those who are silenced, our protests for those pushed to the margins. In our advocacy with them may we find the unity to which you call us in Christ's name. Amen.

Tue 23

WPCU ~ Day 6

Generous God, your overflowing love gave birth to creation; your redeeming love journeyed through lands of forsakenness so that the tomb might be empty, and our life with you unending. Teach us your logic – that to give is to receive, to empty ourselves is to be filled, that as we point away from ourselves we might discover anew our unity in Christ. Amen.

Wed 24

WPCU ~ Day 7

God of love, you risked your life through the womb of a teenager, and shared the nurture of your Son with a village carpenter. You understand families, communities, relationships – mixes all of beauty and brokenness. Bless all those who raise children and care for the vulnerable and through your grace gather them into the life of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thu 25

The Conversion
of Paul

WPCU ~ Day 8

God of unity, Trinity of the Three, you call your people to be one that the world may believe. Grant us your Spirit that we might act and speak with one voice so that our world's pains and divisions may be transformed by healing, hope and reconciliation, our Lord's prayer be answered, and your name glorified and hallowed. Amen.

Fri 26

As Homeless Sunday approaches, we thank you for all locally who offer food and shelter to people who are homeless and for WDC's promise of a new home to the LWS Night Shelter. Bless community efforts to raise £60,000 to renovate the premises and help secure the future of this much-needed service.

Sat 27

We remember the victims of the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and subsequent genocides. Keep us mindful of the power of words to make a difference both for good and evil, the words, spoken and unsaid that make such horrors possible, and those that can stop them. Sensitize us to the words we see and hear – in the media, online, in conversations – and the words we choose to use, that conditions that reinforce genocide never occur again.

Sun 28

The Fourth Sunday
of Epiphany

Thank you for the completion of the work on the south nave roof and for the removal of the screens and scaffolding, so the sunlight can stream into church again. Help us see and remove screens in ourselves that prevent the light of Christ's love from shining into us or that stop us letting our light shine before all.

Mon 29

Give hope and strength to the CMM Sisters in Sayuni, Tanzania and good health to their pair of oxen, that together they may successfully plough and prepare their fields for seeding, while their tractor stands crippled for want of repair. Help them do all they can to secure their food supply in an unreliable climate, and keep them free from anxiety, trusting that you will provide.

Tue 30

We give thanks for the ministries of Vaughan and Alycia, and pray they will be refreshed and restored by their Tuesdays off.

Wed 31

Lord, the past is gone, the future is not yet – we have the present. Help us to not put off till tomorrow the good we can do today.