



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

# March 2018

## Prayer Diary

*Thank you for using March's prayer diary, and to all who have contributed to it. Its mission is to help support the people of this church, parish and wider community through prayer and to prayer, so use prayers as you feel moved to in conversation with God, or to start a conversation about God with someone you might not usually talk to. There are extra copies at the back of church, and from the newsletters area of St Mary's Church website. The online edition has **links** to further material that may be of use and interest. Please share your prayer ideas with Kirsteen Robson ([kirsteenr@gmail.com](mailto:kirsteenr@gmail.com) or 07799 682872).*

**Thu 1**

St David

We pray that **Self-injury Awareness Day** will lead to greater understanding and empathy for all who cope with emotional distress by inflicting physical injury on themselves. Heal the inner hurts of those for whom self-harm feels like the only option, that they may no longer need the physical pain they seek.

**Fri 2**

On the **Women's World Day of Prayer** we give thanks for the power of prayer and of praying together. Be with all at 11am and 6.30pm at All Saints', Emscote as they continue the wave of prayer across the world in a service written by Christian women in Suriname: "All God's Creation is Very Good".

**Sat 3**

On **World Hearing Day** we thank you for the gift of hearing. Help us anticipate and respond to difficulties faced by those with impaired hearing and bless all seeking to promote safe listening.

**Sun 4**

Third Sunday  
in Lent

We pray for plans to launch a monthly Saturday morning **Messy Church** on the Woodloes estate from May, to provide an opportunity for whole families to engage with faith, and we bring before you tomorrow night's meeting at St Nicholas' Church. Call and inspire volunteers from across the churches to help with welcoming, refreshments, leading activities and worship, clearing up, and supporting the initiative in prayer.

**Mon 5**

Guide us by your Holy Spirit as we pray today for the needs of all who live and work on Northgate, Northgate Street, Theatre Street, Barrack Street, Joyce Pool and Priory Mews.

**Tue 6**

Thank you for the people and work of **Warwick Methodist Church**, and for Rev Barbara Greenwood their minister, who is on Sabbatical until mid May. May this be a time of growth and renewal for them all. Continue the work you started in their Tuesday morning Bread Churches and Lent Meditations, building relationships and opening the way for people to come to faith through fellowship. Please bless their preparations to host the Birmingham District Presbyteral Synod on 20th March.

**Wed 7**

Creator and Sustainer, we praise you for calling an increasing number of people to question society's reliance on plastics, and for the **Lent Plastic Challenge** and **Plastic-less Lent** that are uniting them in a quest for sustainable solutions. Guide and empower them to bring in change in this and other areas, and to ensure that sustainable options are equally accessible to all.

**Thu 8**

On **International Women's Day** we thank you for all that's been achieved to promote and recognise the parity of women, and pray for the work still to be done to motivate and unite friends, colleagues and whole communities to think, act and be gender inclusive. Show us where we need to play our part.

**Fri 9**

At the beginning of **British Science Week** we pray that this celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths will open people's eyes and imaginations to you, the author of creation, and inspire them to further their knowledge and apply it for the good of all people and with respect to the planet.

**Sat 10**

We pray for all young people attending tonight's **Higher Tour** gig at Coventry Cathedral. Open their ears to your message, their hearts to your love and their lives to your transforming power this day, in the weekly Saturday follow-up courses until May, and thereafter in local churches with youth provision.

**Sun 11**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**  
**Mothering Sunday**

We thank you for all who nurture us with steadfast love, who enable us with strengthening force, who free us with tough yet gentle love, who comfort, tend and journey beside us. And we pray for Freddie Elmhirst on his baptism day, that he may know this care from his family, the church as well as from you.

**Mon 12**

God of love, comfort all experiencing the turmoil and heartache of a long-term relationship under strain: for spouses or partners, their children, families and friends. Grant them the clarity to discern your voice in the guidance they receive, and the space to allow your healing love to seep into their wounds.

**Tue 13**

We pray for the staff, volunteers and trustees of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Museum, as they consider options for the museum's future. Be with them in these days of uncertainty, and help them find the best way to preserve their 300-year history and honour the thousands of members of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment who fell in service of their country.

**Wed 14**

We pray for the children and staff from Briar Hill Infant School visiting St Mary's today. May the very stones bear witness to you, the God who loves them and longs to know them as your own.

**Thu 15**

Today we remember with gratitude all who use their gifts to encourage us: at home, work, church and elsewhere. Guide us to use our own gifts generously in ways that seek to build up others, that the fellowship knit through the power of your Holy Spirit may grow ever wider until your Kingdom comes.

**Fri 16**

On the launch of **Sport Relief 2018** we pray for all who'll be getting active to raise money to change lives. Strengthen them as they prepare to push their own limits for the benefit of others, and inspire and bless all who take part, through the experience of contributing and belonging to a wider community.

**Sat 17**

St Patrick

We thank you for the capacity of music to comfort, challenge and inspire and ask you to bless all attending Da Capo's **Soul Music** concert tonight. Grant them an opportunity to reflect afresh on the events of Holy Week, and the space to respond.

**Sun 18**

Fifth Sunday  
in Lent

We pray for all joining in worship at the Chair of Warwick CC's Annual Civic Service. May your name be glorified and all know you, from the least to the greatest. As the Poppies for the International Poppy Swap with Warwick, Australia are blessed we pray for lasting links of friendship between our towns.

**Mon 19**

Please bless tonight's *Sing with your Supper* fundraising event at the Lord Leycester Hospital, for **Warwick Poppies 2018**. May the Sing Well Community Choir and their audience enjoy an evening of music-making, food and fellowship in a good cause. We thank you for the energy and vision of the Warwick Poppies Committee and ask you to sustain them in the coming months as they bring the project to full fruition.

**Tue 20**

On this first day of spring, when winter's icy reign is officially ended, we bring before you all, inside prison and out, who are reading and reflecting on the *40 Stories of Hope: How faith has changed prisoners' lives*. Touch their hearts and transform their lives forever by the message that, through Jesus, reconciliation with you, with themselves and with others, is possible.

**Wed 21**

We bring before you the business of tonight's PCC meeting, and thank you for the contribution of its members. Guide and inspire their discussions as they seek to discern your will and direct their decisions as they find ways to follow it.

**Thu 22**

On **World Water Day** we praise you for the gift of water. 'Create in us such a sense of wonder and delight in this precious gift, that we might receive it with gratitude, care for it with love and generously share it with all your creatures.'<sup>1</sup> Direct and bless the search for nature-based solutions to the water challenges we face, planting new forests, reconnecting rivers to floodplains, and restoring wetlands, that the water cycle may be rebalanced and human health and livelihoods improved.

**Fri 23**

With the **CMM Sisters** in Tanzania, we give thanks that they have enough rain this year and expect to harvest maize, rice, cassava, sunflower, ground nuts, semsem and cashew nuts. Praise you, from whom all blessings flow; praise you, all creatures here below; praise you above, you heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Sat 24**

We thank you for all who week by week decorate this church with flowers to your glory in times of joy and sorrow, giving a reminder of the lilies of the field through the changing seasons. Bless them at this morning's AGM and may we never take for granted the gift of time and creativity they share in this ministry.

**Sun 25**

**Sixth Sunday  
in Lent  
Palm Sunday**

This Palm Sunday, help us to hold onto your idea of kingship which is still ridiculed by the powerful and scorned by the successful. Let the picture of a king on a donkey be hung in every leader's gallery, every politician's office, every scholar's library, every minister's study; and seen in every disciple's life. (*Donald Hilton*)  
We pray too for Harry Robert and his family on his baptism day.

**Mon 26**

As we consider Pilate's Wife who felt compelled to try to halt her husband's action, help us recognise, pursue and stand up for truth and justice. May we realise that the faith and truth we possess must be shared with others, whatever the risk. Remind us that others also possess part of the truth, and in our search for truth, keep us always open to their contributions.

**Tue 27**

Lord, as we remember the women at the foot of the Cross, help us appreciate the gift of presence. Encourage us to share that gift with others, being with them in their sorrows, sickness and disappointments, even when that presence is all that we can offer. And give us the gift of appreciating the presence of others to us. May their presence be a sign of your love for us all.

**Wed 28**

Today as we view the Cross through the eyes of the thief crucified with Jesus, who shared Jesus's fate and his pain, and saw him with a clear, close and intimate sight, we ask you to give us the gift of clear sight faith. Like the penitent thief, may we open ourselves to grace and accept the salvation which Jesus offers. Father we believe. Help our unbelief.

**Thu 29**

**Maundy  
Thursday**

Lord, forgive us for times when, like Peter's, our spirit is willing, but our flesh weak; when we allow other things to take priority over what you have asked of us, and our words or actions belie our passionate promises of faithful service. Strengthen our faith with your Holy Spirit, that we may indeed watch and pray and not fall into temptation.

**Fri 30**

**Good Friday**

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?* Father, lead us we pray through imagination to consider the cross from different angles: what did the crucifixion mean to Pilate? Herod? The Jewish leaders? Jesus's friends? His family? His followers? The bystanders? And what does it now mean to us, this day...?

**Sat 31**

**Holy Saturday**

How do we await you today, Lord? How do we prepare? Do we, like your disciples, forget your words about the future? Does our faith lie buried in a dark tomb of doubt or despair? Or do we eagerly look for the first chink of light as the stone is rolled away to let the new dawn flood in? Come, Lord, come!