



St. Mary's
Warwick's Church of Treasures

September 2018

Prayer Diary

*Thank you for supporting the people of St Mary's, its parish and the wider community through prayer. Do use these prayers as you wish. There are extra copies, and large-print versions, at the back of church, and on the newsletters area of St Mary's Church website. **Links** in the online edition provide further material that may be of use or interest. If you can't access the internet and would like particular information, contact Kirsteen Robson. Please share suggestions for prayer with Kirsteen (kirsteenr@gmail.com or 07799 682872).*

Sat 1

We pray for all young people whose plans have been upended by disappointing exam results. Calm their turmoil and help them discern a bigger picture. Guide them as they consider their next steps, and draw them to trust their future to you, the way, the truth and the life, even if they do not yet know you by name. Sustain parents, counsellors, staff at educational institutions and employment agencies, and all who want to offer them support.

Sun 2

**Fourteenth
Sunday after
Trinity**

Heavenly Father, help us to be quick to listen today, slow to speak, and even slower to be angry. Reveal to us all in us that is not worthy, that we may rid ourselves of it and welcome with meekness your implanted word that has the power to save our souls. Grant us perseverance to be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive ourselves, that we may be pure and undefiled before you this and every day.

Mon 3

We pray for all attending the monthly **Bereavement Support Group**, meeting for the first time tonight at New Life Church. May they find the support and a safe space to face their grief, explore emotions, share memories and cultivate self-compassion. Bless the facilitators and volunteers, that through their gift of active listening, members may receive comfort and find hope.

Tue 4

As a new term begins, we pray for all who work in education – teachers, assistants and support staff. Inspire and sustain them as the year progresses, enabling them always to give their best, that their students may be encouraged to achieve theirs.

Wed 5

On the **International Day of Charity** we give thanks for all who share their time, gifts and money for the benefit of others. Guide our prayers as we consider our own response... 'Where charity and love are, God is there...' Amen, Lord. May it be so.

Thu 6

As the **Heritage Open Days** festival starts, we thank you for the rich history of our town and country. May the Extraordinary Women theme and Unsung Stories project successfully help to celebrate individuals and events that may have been overlooked.

Fri 7

We pray for Fiona and Andrew on the eve of their wedding. When they are united in love before you, bless the sacred vows they make, that on this rock of commitment you will help them build such a marriage that will withstand all life's weathers. We also pray for **Messy Church Woodloes**, whose new term starts tomorrow. Bless its organisers with a sense of your purpose, and fill its families with a sense of your presence.

Sat 8

Birth of
the Blessed
Virgin Mary

On this feast day of Mary, mother of your son, we bring before you all organisations and places dedicated in her name. As the **CMM Sisters** in Tanzania celebrate their Patronal Festival, we pray with them for Srs. Herieth Helena, Herieth Anjela and Sophia Nesta CMM, who are making their final vows today, and give thanks for the nine sisters who are celebrating their Silver Jubilee in your service. Bless and keep them, confirm, strengthen, guard and guide them as they follow your ways.

Sun 9

Fifteenth
Sunday after
Trinity
Patronal Festival

'For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.' As we meditate on Mary's words we thank you for her willingness to entrust all she was and all she had to you, and for the profound implications this acceptance had for all people, for all time... We also pray for Vincent, being baptised today. Just as Mary bore the person of Christ within her body, so may he, and we, forever bear the image of Christ within our hearts.

Mon 10

As work begins on the main display in church, we pray for the **Warwick Poppies** team and all involved in assembling and publicising this tribute in the weeks ahead. Grant them stamina, patience and perseverance as they bring together the handmade, heartfelt contributions of so many people, that in doing so they may weave into a fitting memorial the stories of those who sacrificed their lives and those whose freedom was bought thereby.

Tue 11

In **National Air Ambulance Week** we give thanks for this vital service across the country, and especially those who fly our **regional** helicopters. We pray that communities continue to find funds to support the multiple daily missions that have saved thousands of lives, and so enable crews to save thousands more.

Wed 12

O strength of Wisdom who, circling, circled, enclosing all in one life-giving path, three wings you have: one soars to the heights, one distils its essence upon the earth, and the third is everywhere. Praise to you, as is fitting, O Wisdom. *Hildegard von Bingen*

Thu 13

We remember today the people in our armed forces posted in Afghanistan – sons and daughters, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers. Keep them safe and sustain their families in their absence. We pray for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. We also ask you to bless this evening's Standing Committee meeting.

Fri 14

Holy Spirit, help us pray today for the needs of those who live, work and drive along Cape Road, Landor Road, Chandley Row, Chandley Wharf, Hanworth Road and Warwick bypass A46.

Sat 15

We give thanks for the contribution our canals make to the physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing of local people, as well as our area's leisure and tourism economy. We pray for the **Canal Conservation Area** consultation, closing on the 24th.

Sun 16

**Sixteenth Sunday
after Trinity**

This sanctuary of my soul, Unwitting I keep white and whole, Unlatch'd and lit, if Thou should'st care To enter or to tarry there. With parted lips and outstretch'd hands And list'ning ears Thy servant stands, Call Thou early, call Thou late, To Thy great service dedicate. My soul, keep white, and whole. *C.H. Sorley*

Mon 17

'But say the word and my servant will be healed.' (Matt 7.7) Lord, we offer praise and thanksgiving for the **many wonders** you have done to restore 20 Augusta Place and establish **The Well Christian Healing Centre** as a place of refuge, hope and kindness in the heart of Leamington. Continue your healing work in the lives of all starting the **Spiritual Wellbeing Course** today, bringing them a refreshing and life-giving perspective.

Tue 18

We give you thanks for the progress made on the plans to run an **Eden Youth Bus** in Warwick, that the partnerships and funding have been secured to run the project once bus and refurbishment costs are covered. Guide the trustees of the Garfield Weston 60th Anniversary Fund as they consider the many applications, that they may allocate funds in accordance with your will.

Wed 19

Today we remember those who follow their conscience even when it means doing things in harder, slower, more expensive or less popular ways. Direct their decisions and safeguard them from dogma, encourage their efforts and bless their actions. We pray particularly for those who strive to be ethical producers, conscientious consumers or advocates for social justice.

Thu 20

We pray with gratitude for our sidespeople, who generously offer themselves and their time to their duties, especially in serving and representing you and your whole church as they welcome people to services and do all they can to put them at ease. Bless them as they meet tonight to plan the busy season ahead, and service by service as they fulfil their vital role.

Fri 21

**Matthew, Apostle
and Evangelist**

On **World Alzheimer's Day** we give thanks for the 75,500+ people regionally who have signed up to Alzheimer's Society's **Dementia Friends** initiative, finding out more about how dementia affects a person. Help them use this understanding to do the small things that will create a climate of kindness and consideration, so that everyone affected by dementia feels part of society and supported as they live the life they choose.

Sat 22

Loving Father, please support students starting out in their university life at this time, especially those arriving for Warwick Welcome Week. Help them find firm footing, socially, spiritually and academically, and reassure them in times of uncertainty.

Sun 23

Seventeenth Sunday
after Trinity

At the start of the Tree Council's **Seed Gathering Season**, we give thanks for the perennial joy to be found in picking up a perfect conker. May the project inspire people to plant the trees of the future and delight in seeing them grow. We also ask you to bless all taking part in today's **Warwick Scarecrow Festival**.

Mon 24

As **National Eye Health Week** begins we pray that the campaign will increase public awareness about the importance of eye health and regular sight tests in preventing avoidable sight loss.

Tue 25

We pray for all who have responsibility for the prison system, from justice ministers to individual officers on the wing, and we ask you to strengthen all who work for prison reform. Grant them the resources, skills and support they need to create prisons that are safer, more secure and more decent, and that will support prisoners to turn their back on crime for good. Locally, we pray especially for HMP Birmingham.

Wed 26

In **British Food Fortnight**, we give thanks for UK food growers and producers and remember countries where food is scarce.

Thu 27

We pray for St Mary's Bible Study group members starting a new study path tonight with a read-through of Mark's Gospel. Show them fresh perspectives as they see Jesus' life and teaching unfold in context. May all who come feel safe to ask questions, express doubts, share insights, agree and disagree as they explore together what it means to be Christ's disciples here and now.

Fri 28

'If ye love me, keep my commandments.' (*John 14.15*) As we prepare to thank you for the food that so many of us have in abundance, we remember all those facing food insecurity. We pray for the individuals and families who are struggling to make ends meet each week and are using food banks. May they be met with kindness and practical help and leave with a sense of dignity restored. Grant wisdom and provision to our **food banks**, that they always have enough of both to meet the demand.

Sat 29

Michael and
all angels

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth. (*Collect*) We pray too for the Guild of Ex-choristers' Reunion and AGM. Bless members as they celebrate the 90th birthday of a former Music Director and the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Friends of the Choir, with Evensong holding a central place in their day.

Sun 30

Eighteenth
Sunday
after Trinity

As the people praise you, O God, for the fruits of the earth from farm, factory and mill, remind us afresh that it is you who love us and care for us. Whisper anew that you created us in your image. Call us again to share your task of caring for this world. Unite us to praise you for the harvest, to join you in partnership and to offer these gifts as a thanksgiving for all you give us the whole year through. (*Donald Hilton, adapted*)