



October 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. Thanks to those who suggested prayers for this month's diary. Please share ideas for next month's (kirsteenr@gmail.com or 07799 682872), by 15th October if possible.

Mon 1	Living Lord, bless all attending this afternoon's Community Celebration event at Woodloes, organised by Transforming Communities Together Warwick with Warwick District Council. May residents enjoy the hospitality and activities at the pop-up café and feel encouraged to share their views and experience of local needs. We pray for those gathering this information, that you will guide their actions according to your purpose.
Tue 2	We pray for everyone involved in and attending the Warwick Words History Festival this week. While audiences immerse themselves in stories of the past and celebrate the skill of those whose words bring them to life, may they establish connections and form relationships that will strengthen our community in the present and help build firm foundations for its future.
Wed 3	Grant all involved in church business the wisdom, discernment and passion to do your will. We pray for church staff, the PCC and its committees, and the Organ Scholar appointment panel.
Thu 4 St Francis of Assisi	Lord of every day, uphold all who are finding it hard to balance the needs of their employers, family, friends and their own physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Help them start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible, that they may suddenly find that they are doing the impossible. (St Francis of A, adapted)
Fri 5	As we see our church filled with poppies of every shade and shape, we hold each flower before you, reflecting that each connects a precious life that was given with a precious life whose freedoms exist as a result. Bless the Warwick Poppies tribute, that as our community and its visitors remember together they may be united in hope for a kingdom of peace.
Sat 6	Strengthen and sustain our new Visitor Team – John, Dee, Sally, Rita, Denise and Carole. As visitors are welcomed into church, may they sense that it is your hospitality that is being shared. Bless our former receptionists Joy, Teresa and Tina. May they know you walking beside them as they tread fresh paths.

Sun 7

**19th Sunday
after Trinity**

Direct our thoughts today as we reflect on the words that shape our lives. Increase our hunger for the rich nourishment that your Word provides, that, led by your Spirit speaking through words of scripture, and with Jesus as our pattern and guide, we may be shaped in your image, to your glory.

Mon 8

We pray for all who are struggling to break free from addiction, thinking this month particularly of smoking. Grant them the motivation and support they need to cut down and kick the habit, and lead them to healthier ways to feel good, physically and psychologically. We pray that the **Stoptober** campaign will give many the boost and success they are looking for.

Tue 9

Grant discernment, we pray, to all asking the question **"Where do I fit into God's Story?"**, remembering especially those considering their vocation at St Mark's Church tonight.

Wed 10

This **World Mental Health Day** we ask you to comfort and sustain all young people experiencing mental illness. Bless **Together For Change**'s plans to set up a 'Rise' hub in Warwick next month, partnering with the NHS to deliver emotional well-being and mental health services for children and young people at church venues in the heart of the community.

Thu 11

We give thanks for the achievements of those attending the Warwickshire College Graduation ceremonies today and tomorrow. As they sit in church, inspire them to reflect on the part you've played in their lives so far, and draw them to you to consider how you might be involved in their future.

Fri 12

Thank you for all who take part in clinical trials, whether sharing their experiences, or trialling new medications or methods and risking their own lives to improve the lives of many. In their giving, we pray they may abundantly receive.

Sat 13

We pray for Joanna and Ian as they give themselves to each other in marriage today. Bless their love and their life together.

Sun 14

**20th Sunday
after Trinity**

Loving Shepherd, we pray for Agnes on the day of her baptism, that as she grows you will lead her in green pastures, beside still waters, and if needed, you will seek, find and bring her safely home. We pray too for the Fusilier Association (Warwickshire and West Midlands) at their Church Service and Parade this afternoon, as they welcome their returning members and remember those who are with them no longer.

Mon 15

Teresa of Avila

We pray today for bereaved parents, families and friends who mourn their babies whose earthly lives barely began. Comfort them as they commemorate their children, that the candles lit this evening may be an outward sign of the light of the love they carry in their hearts. And after the flames have turned to smoke, may the feeling remain that you are on their journey too.

Tue 16

In Chocolate Week we give thanks for the enjoyment chocolate can give, while lifting before you those who seek in it comfort for a deeper need. We remember all involved in the chocolate industry and pray that the desire and demand will grow for products that are both sustainably produced and fairly traded.

Wed 17

Together with the vicar and congregation of **St Michael's, Budbrooke** we pray for your hand and favour to help them grow as disciples. Bless the **CROWN** rule of life material they are developing and using, that through establishing rhythms of Community, Recreation, Offering, the Word and Networks, the church may live life to the full, and glorify you.

Thu 18

Luke, Evangelist

We give thanks for Luke the physician whose gospel account demonstrated that people from all nations and backgrounds might be healed and saved. Help us trust you to give us the words (when we need them) to communicate the good news of your redeeming love to the people we encounter day to day.

Fri 19

We pray for the **Warwick Mop Fair**, for the enjoyment of fair-goers, the prosperity of proprietors, its contribution to the sense of community and for the safety of all.

Sat 20

Today we lift before you all who work in palliative care. Grant them strength and courage in their calling, compassion in their hearts, skill in their hands, knowledge in their minds, and certainty in their vocation of selfless service to those who are weak in body and vulnerable in spirit. We pray locally for the medical, spiritual and pastoral care teams at **Myton Hospice**.

Sun 21

21st Sunday
after Trinity

As **Apple Day** events become more popular, we give thanks for the diversity of apple varieties, regional produce, landscape, ecology and culture. We pray that the search for common ground can still celebrate and appreciate difference. May this same spirit of acceptance be evident within the body of Christ. We pray for Edith on her baptism day, that she may indeed be blessed, and know the riches you promise all who follow you.

Mon 22

We pray for people who experience difficulty with speech – in forming sounds, calling the right words to mind, or fluently delivering them. Bless efforts to increase awareness of the challenges they face, that listeners may be more willing to allow time for speakers to talk without pressure. Comfort all whose speech challenges cause them distress, with the reassurance that you hear and understand the words and thoughts of all.

Tue 23

We bring before you today all who live and work in Antelope Gardens, Saltisford Gardens, St Michael's Road, Birmingham Road, Welton Road and Rothwell Road. As our minds travel down these roads in prayer, we ask you to bless each person, removing any obstacles and drawing them ever closer to you.

Wed 24

On **World Polio Day** we give thanks for more than 20,000 World Health Organisation staff tirelessly vaccinating and monitoring to eradicate polio. Strengthen especially those at work in districts where new cases are still reported. Bless the efforts of all organisations and individuals raising funds for the programme. Locally we pray for **Warwick Rotary Club**.

Thu 25

Be still and know that I am God. (Ps 46.10) Quiet our minds and bodies as we take time today simply to rest in your presence.

Fri 26

Today we ask you to guide all those involved in the ongoing discussions concerning electoral boundary changes, granting them objectivity and impartiality. Sustain those most affected by the outcome. We pray for the coming of your Kingdom with no borders, boundaries or divisions, where you rule by justice and fairness, with love and faithfulness leading the way.

Sat 27

We give thanks for the involvement of the owners of Apple Tree Tea Rooms with the **Toilet Twinning** initiative. May their example encourage other local people, businesses and organisations to twin their toilets, and so help to provide sanitary and safe conditions for those in poverty. We pray too for St Mary's Breakfast Fellowship, celebrating its third anniversary. Bless their efforts to support and encourage each other in faith, friendship and witness in your name.

Sun 28

**22nd Sunday
after Trinity**

On the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia we give thanks for the dedication of the Friends of the Czechoslovakian Memorial Fountain in Jephson Gardens in raising funds for its renovation, and for the generosity of all who have contributed. May the restored fountain be an inspiring and thought-provoking tribute to the 4,000 Free Czechoslovak Army soldiers stationed in Leamington during the Second World War and to their support of resistance movements.

Mon 29

As darkness now falls more noticeably earlier each day, we pray for all who are affected by the lack of light. Sustain them in the months ahead with the reassurance that spring will return.

Tue 30

We give thanks today for the living faith of the **CMM Sisters** in Tanzania and Zambia. May they pass on the love of Jesus to all the disadvantaged people they come into contact with, that people may see the hand of Christ in their own work and life.

Wed 31

Before the ending of the day, Creator of the world, we pray, that with thy wonted favour thou wouldest be our guard and keeper now. From all ill dreams defend our eyes, from nightly fears and fantasies; tread under foot our ghostly foe, that no pollution we may know. O Father, that we ask be done, through Jesus Christ thine only Son, who, with the Holy Ghost and thee, doth live and reign eternally. Amen.