



St. Mary's
Warwick's Church of Treasures

November 2018

Prayer Diary

*Thank you for supporting the people of St Mary's, its parish and the wider community through prayer, and thank you to everyone who has contributed to the diary this month. It's an exciting answer to prayer to see it being written both by and for an increasing number of people. 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 continue to share prayers and ideas with Kirsteen (kirsteenr@gmail.com or 07799 682872).*

Thu 1

All Saints' Day

With thanks in prayer today, we celebrate the lives of the Saints – those who gave their lives to Christ, no matter how great the sacrifice, and whose example inspires us to make our own contribution to your Kingdom on earth. Gracious God, give us the strength, bravery, determination and love shown by all saints, so that we can live their lives in our modern world.

Fri 2

All Souls' Day

On All Souls' Day we remember all our loved ones who have died, trusting that they rest peacefully in the perpetual light of your love. In a time of stillness we bring their names and our memories of them to you, along with the prayers on our hearts. We pray for all attending Da Capo's musical **reflection** tonight, that the words and music may bring your comfort and hope.

Sat 3

We pray for all attending the Diocesan Centenary conference 'Into a Shared Future' at Coventry Cathedral. Inspire them with the vision of the whole diocese working together for you, for reconciliation, and with deepening faith, then help them fulfil it.

Sun 4

Fourth Sunday
before Advent

As we observe both All Saints' and All Souls' Days we praise you that through the sacrifice of Jesus the Lamb, all can reach the rest you have promised... We give thanks for all the **There But Not There** project does to commemorate, educate and heal, by supporting military charities which help today's veterans.

Mon 5

God of comfort, we pray for those who mourn, remembering that though blessed in your eyes, many may feel far from your consolation. We bring before you those whose loved ones died recently or suddenly, and all who are struggling to live with their grief. In particular we ask you to touch the hearts and minds of those attending the **Bereavement Support Group**, giving each what they need for healing to begin.

Tue 6

We pray for the children and staff of Westgate Primary School as they visit the poppies. May they learn much and remember.

Wed 7

On **National Stress Awareness Day** we pray for all who feel overwhelmed by stress, that they may discover healthy ways to deal with the pressures they face. Make us aware of the needs of those around us, and help us to offer timely support. May we know the inner peace that comes from bringing our burdens to you, that we may confidently share this good news with others. We also ask you to bless the people and proceedings at this week's PCC and Standing Committee meetings.

Thu 8

As Remembrance Sunday nears, we remember all who have died in any kind of warfare: soldiers killed in the horror of battle; householders buried beneath the rubble of their homes; men, women and children murdered in their villages. We pray for all caught up in strife across this troubled world. Have mercy on us, Lord. Open our hearts and ears to your still small voice of calm, teaching us how to live together in peace and tolerance.

Fri 9

We pray with **Mothers' Union Warwick Together** for this evening's open talk at St Michael's, Budbrooke about **Flourish**, a local charity which mentors teenage girls. Bless the fellowship and learning, that through it people may be inspired to get involved.

Sat 10

We remember the victims of humanity's inhumanity; survivors scarred in body or mind through the ravages of war. We pray for those whose injuries have denied them the life they once enjoyed. We pray for those who bear their mental anguish in silence, unable to voice their suffering. We remember families caring for those in pain, facing a future forever changed. Surround with your love and healing presence all who suffer, that they may know that, whatever happens, you will never forsake them.

Sun 11

**Remembrance
Sunday**

**Third Sunday
before Advent**

100 years after the end of the First World War, we keep silence in our hearts to remember, mourn and honour the lives and dreams sacrificed for a war 'to end all wars'. Forgive us, Lord, that our world is still broken. Help us work in your name for the lasting peace that only you can give. Thank you for the young people taking part in Remembrance Services and in tonight's community performance of music and readings. May this new generation keep alive both their memory and the hope of peace.

Mon 12

We pray for the success of vital work of the organisations awarded **Garfield Weston Anniversary grants**, prayerfully trusting you have other plans for the funding of Warwick's **Eden Youth Bus**. Guide those steering the project to discern your will and act on it.

Tue 13

Generous God, help us daily to be kind in big ways and small to those we know and those we don't, not just for **World Kindness Day**, but because you made us in your image, and you are love.

Wed 14

This **World Diabetes Day** we thank you for improvements in diabetes prevention and treatment. Bless and sustain those in 170 countries and territories who work to make medicine, care and education accessible and affordable for every family.

Thu 15

On **World Pancreatic Cancer** day, we pray for all who suffer, and for their families and friends who often feel helpless and hopeless. We pray for those who have died and for those who have been bereaved. Bless the work of hospital teams whose skill and commitment is helping to advance medical knowledge. We give thanks for all who fundraise to support the research needed to improve diagnosis and treatment.

Fri 16

We pray for **Away From It All**, the MU scheme that offers short breaks to families in stressful situations. Bless members of Barford MU and MU Warwick Together preparing for tomorrow's Coffee Morning Bring & Buy at St Nicholas' Church for AFIA.

Sat 17

We give thanks for the work of **Warwick District Faiths Forum** and all it does to foster understanding, respect and cooperation between faiths. Bless this morning's WDFF event 'Faith and Sustainability – taking responsibility for our planet' at St Paul's, Leamington, that it may both educate and motivate.

Sun 18

**Second Sunday
before Advent**

Thank you for the spirit of love and generosity which inspires many people to take part in seasonal charity gift collections. May your Holy Spirit work deeply in them and powerfully at every level of the organisations they support. Bless all the children who will receive the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes being celebrated at St Paul's church this afternoon.

Mon 19

As **International Men's Day** focusses discussion, among other things, on positive male role models, we pray for boys who don't have a man in their lives to guide them well. Father, who through Jesus offers us all the ultimate example of the perfect person that transcends gender, we ask you to fulfil their needs.

Tue 20

We pray for the safety of all who use our town's busy roads, and call to mind especially those who have lost their lives in road accidents. God of compassion, comfort those who mourn them. As we reflect on the slenderness of the thread which separates life from death, and the suddenness with which it can be broken, help us all also remember that on both sides of that division we are surrounded by your love and that when dear ones die neither we, nor they, are parted from you.

Wed 21

Loving God, we lift before you this month all who live and work in Harris Road, Broxell Close, Haywood Road, Banner Hill, Wednock Lane and Rouncil Lane. Protect them, comfort them, encourage and challenge them according to their needs.

Thu 22

With the members of **Castle Hill Baptist Church** we pray that they may stay still long enough to hear where you may be calling them to next, that they may have eyes to see their part in the broader mission serving Warwick and that they may grow braver in sharing the message of Jesus. We also ask you to bless their new Pastor, Kevin, in his future ministry there.

Fri 23

As representatives from local schools gather in church for a special Warwick Poppies Service of Remembrance, we pray that it will indeed give them something that will be with them always – a hunger for your love and a passion for your peace.

Sat 24

We pray for the work of **Global Care** seeking to support the most vulnerable children in impoverished communities. Bless tonight's fundraising **concert** by Rob Halligan and Fiona Castle.

Sun 25

Christ the King

First before Advent

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King! Jesus, Lord, guide our prayers as we set aside time to rest in your radiant presence, reflecting on the nature of your kingship and the qualities of your kingdom. Help us recognise the extent of the citizen's role that's ours to fulfil when we hail you as our King.

Mon 26

We pray for everyone involved in preparations for **St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival**. Strengthen and bless those who work so hard behind the scenes to make it run smoothly. Bless each tree and grant those who decorate them joy in being part of a community event that gives joy to so many others.

Tue 27

We pray for all young offenders involved with Warwickshire Youth Justice Service, and the practitioners working with them to address thinking and behaviours related to their crimes, tackle underlying issues and help them re-engage with positive activities, education, training and employment. We pray especially for cases involving child sexual exploitation and knife crime. Comfort the victims of crime and bless them with the support they need.

Wed 28

Three-in-one God, we give thanks for all who serve you in religious communities, asking that through their shared life your Holy Spirit will empower them to carry out your work in the places and situations to which you have called them. We pray today that new vocations to the religious life come forward, and with the **CMM Sisters** we pray especially for new vocations to the Community of St Mary in Tanzania and Zambia.

Thu 29

Today we pray for our community as it comes together for the annual Victorian Evening, and for our church on the launch of the Christmas Tree Festival. As people come into church to see the trees, may they catch a glimpse or more of the true joy that came into the world that first Christmas, and remains with us today. We pray especially for all who stay to the carol service, that what may start off as a nice idea, may lead to a life-changing encounter with the light of the world.

Fri 30

Andrew, Apostle

The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. (John 1.40-42) Lord Jesus, give us a passion like Andrew's to tell our families and friends who you are and what that means. Help us bring them to you, trusting that you'll welcome them.