



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

# January 2019

## Prayer Diary

Happy New Year! Thank you for supporting the people of St Mary's, its parish and beyond through prayer. Extra Prayer Diaries and large-print versions are at the back of church, and on St Mary's Church website. **Links** in the online edition provide further useful material. In addition, please look out for **Churches Together in Warwick's** prayer sheet for the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, containing additional prayers for local churches and initiatives, plus information about CTW events. Do share ideas for February's Prayer Diary with Kirsteen Robson (kirsteenr@gmail.com or 07799 682872), by 15th January.

**Tue 1**

**New Year's Day**

As the wise men travelled with hope and determination to reach the Christ Child, so may we look ahead to this new year and all the joys, sorrows and challenges awaiting us. We pray for peace in our lives, in our country and throughout the world. Help us, Lord, to accept our responsibility to bring about your Kingdom here on earth, so that the New Year may bring new hope, new life and a new future for all creation.

**Wed 2**

Lord, our Church and congregation are yours to use. Help us find new ways to reach our community and beyond, to glorify you and point people to Jesus. Thank you for the love and blessings we received from visitors to Warwick Poppies last year, and the joy and happiness it brought to those keen to remember their loved ones and the sacrifice of millions. Inspire us to build on this in the year ahead, discovering fresh ways to approach others to bring them your good news. Help us all work tirelessly to show them the joy of your presence in this place.

**Thu 3**

We give thanks for the new initiative to establish a much-needed Job Club in Warwick, and pray that enough volunteers with suitable **skills** will come forward to join the team running it.

**Fri 4**

This **World Braille Day** we remember especially those whose sight has changed through accident or illness. Comfort them as they grieve for the life and opportunities that now feel so far away, and reassure them that you will guide them through their inner darkness to a place of hope and possibility.

**Sat 5**

Though our Christmas decorations are packed away every year, help us remember to celebrate Jesus, God with us, every day!

**Sun 6**

**The Epiphany**

Imagining Mary's reaction to the gifts given to her Son, we ask you to guide our prayers as we consider the ways we receive what is given to us. Help us to receive with minds and hearts that are open, to be humble enough to allow something to be done for us, or given to us, to wonder why gifts have been given and to perceive their true value and meaning for us.

<b>Mon 7</b>	Compassionate Lord, we remember all who are suffering the pain of bereavement, especially those whose loss is recent or was sudden. Comfort and guide them as you go with them into this new year. We pray particularly for people offering and receiving help at the monthly <b>Bereavement Support Group</b> .
<b>Tue 8</b>	Today we pray for the needs of our neighbours in Old Square, and all who live and work in New Street, Market Place, Swan Street, Market Street and Brook Street. Bless and keep them.
<b>Wed 9</b>	Hear our prayers today as we confess our sins... Jesus, Son of God, exchange our deepest darkness for eternal light.
<b>Thu 10</b>	We pray for members of St Mary's Study Group, starting a study of Amos tonight. May they, and we, recognise the plumb line that you have set among us, and align our lives accordingly.
<b>Fri 11</b>	O Lord, our strength and our refuge, protect those who are sleeping rough this winter, bringing them into contact with individuals and agencies who can help. Bless the Heart of England Community Foundation's <b>Surviving Winter</b> appeal.
<b>Sat 12</b>	We give thanks for the <b>Leamington Repair Café</b> , on its sixth monthly opening today. Thank you for the partnership between the Sydni Centre, Action 21 and Mental Health Together, which made it possible. Lord of healing, bless its volunteers and its visitors as they share the satisfaction of seeing the broken renewed, and the discarded restored.
<b>Sun 13</b> <b>The Baptism of Christ</b>	We worship you, Lord, in the beauty of holiness; bow down before you, your glory proclaim; with gold of obedience and incense of lowliness, we kneel and adore you; the Lord is your name. Thank you for calling us by name to be redeemed by you.
<b>Mon 14</b>	God of eternal love and power, save our Parliamentary Democracy; protect the High Court of Parliament and all its members from partiality and prejudice; that they may walk humbly the path of kindness, justice and mercy. Give them wisdom, insight and a concern for the common good. The weight of their calling is too much to bear in their own strength, therefore we pray earnestly, Father, send them help from your Holy Place, and be their tower of strength. (++) <i>John Sentamu</i>
<b>Tue 15</b>	God of hope, bless all who are struggling with depression or other mental health issues, that they may receive the support they need. Keep us always aware that others may be fighting unseen battles, that compassion may ever be our first response.
<b>Wed 16</b>	We pray for all starting the <b>Living Well</b> course in Kineton tonight. Encourage and strengthen them as they explore ways to cope with stress and to develop physical, mental, emotional, relational and spiritual resilience to face life's challenges. Bless Barry Jackson as he leads this course.

**Thu 17**

On the eve of the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, we ask you to bless the work of **Churches Together in Britain and Ireland** and, locally, **Churches Together in Warwick**, providing opportunities for churches of all denominations to work, witness and worship together. With CTW we pray that more people will strengthen their fellowship with members of other churches, and so deepen understanding of our diversity or identity, and journey together towards visible unity in Christ.

**Fri 18**

**Week of  
Prayer for  
Christian Unity**

God of all, you have shown us the path of justice. You are the father of the orphan, the constant companion of the widow, the friend of the stranger. In each of these, may we meet you and recognize the wind of your Spirit, moving us toward the need for justice. In all that we do, may we know your grace and mercy and offer healing and justice in your name. Amen.

**Sat 19**

God of justice, grant us the wisdom to see right from wrong. Let our hearts be guided by honesty and our lips speak truth. In times of doubt, cloak us in courage the colour of trust. Birth in us the passion for unity and peace so we may be good news bearers for all. Bless the work of **Amnesty International**, and the fundraising concert in church tonight. Amen.

**Sun 20**

**The Second  
Sunday of  
Epiphany**

God of all humanity, your Son was born into a line of men and women, ordinary and extraordinary. Some remembered for their great deeds, others more for their sins. Give us an open heart to share your unbounded love, and to embrace all who experience discrimination. Help us to grow in love beyond prejudice and injustice. Grant us the grace to respect the uniqueness of each person, that in our diversity we may experience unity. Bless all attending Churches Together in Warwick's Unity Service at All Saints', this evening. Amen.

**Mon 21**

God of the seasons, whether in bountiful harvest, or when there is no yield for what we have sown, let us be content that your grace is sufficient. Help us to have the generosity of spirit to share what we have with those who have not. May we all be blessed with love, grace, compassion and mercy, as we seek to walk humbly and do justly, for your name's sake. Amen.

**Tue 22**

God, the bringer of good news, forgive our lust for power and free us from the temptation to oppress others. Instil in us the determination to see your good news made real in us and those around us, as we share in the mission of your Son Jesus to fulfil your promise of freedom from poverty and oppression. Amen.

**Wed 23**

Loving God, by whose breath all things came to be, we thank you for the world which manifests your glory, diversity and beauty. Grant us the wisdom to walk gently upon the earth and to share together your good news with all creation. Amen.

**Thu 24**

Gracious God, you are the source of human dignity. By your grace and power the words of Hannah, from the midst of her tears, challenged and turned the heart of Eli the Priest. By your grace and power the Canaanite woman was emboldened to reject rejection and move Jesus to heal her daughter. As we strive for a Church which unites all humanity, grant us courage to reject all forms of violence against women and to celebrate the gifts that women bring to the Church. We pray through Jesus, in whom all may find their true worth and calling. Amen.

**Fri 25**

**The Conversion  
of Paul**

God our hope, we praise you for your loving kindness. Uphold us when we are about to give up; show us your light when all around seems dark. Transform our lives, that we may bring hope to others. Help us live united in our diversity as a witness to your communion, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God. Amen.

**Sat 26**

In **National Storytelling Week** we reflect on the relationships between teller and listener. Lord, what kind of tellers and listeners would you have us be, and what stories would you have us share?

**Sun 27**

**The Third  
Sunday of  
Epiphany**

On **Holocaust Memorial Day** we remember the millions of Jews and others killed under Nazi Persecution, and the countless victims of subsequent genocides across the globe. Protect us from complacency, granting us courage to challenge the language of hatred and prejudice, that all may live in safety.

**Mon 28**

We give thanks for the brief visit to the parish of Sr. Debora CMM from Tanzania and the opportunity to learn from her of the prayer-life of the Sisters and of their regularly prayer for us. We give thanks for their dedication and support to bring us nearer to Our Lord and Saviour. Deepen our relationship with the **CMM Sisters** as we continue to pray for each other.

**Tue 29**

We give thanks for the **British Polio Fellowship**, celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary today, and for all the care and support they have offered to people in this country during this time. Guide them as they restructure to preserve their existence on the dramatically reduced income that is affecting so many smaller charities, that they may be around for as long as there are people living with Post Polio Syndrome who need them.

**Wed 30**

With thanks we pray for all who serve you and our church community on the PCC and its subcommittees. Fill them with wisdom and strength, that your plans may become our reality.

**Thu 31**

Guide our prayers today for children and young people who provide ongoing care and emotional support to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances. May they receive the support they themselves need. This Young Carers Awareness Day we pray for the success of the **#CareForMeToo** campaign, to encourage local decision-makers to improve support for young carers' mental health.