



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

# February 2019

## Prayer Diary

*Thank you for supporting the people of this church, parish and wider community through prayer. Feel free to use the prayers as you wish, maybe just using the theme as a starting point for your own prayers. There are extra copies for sharing at the back of church, and on St Mary's Church website. The online edition has **links** leading to further material that may be of interest. Thank you to everyone who has contributed prayers and ideas this month. All are invited to share suggestions for March's diary (by 15<sup>th</sup> February if possible) with Kirsteen Robson (kirsteenr@gmail.com or 07799 682872).*

**Fri 1**

Loving Lord, who calls all who follow you to love their neighbour as themselves, we thank you for those who care for others with dignity and respect, and influence their peers by their example. We pray that events for **Dignity Action Day** will celebrate and inspire compassionate care among all health and social care staff and members of the community.

**Sat 2**

**Presentation**  
of Jesus in the Temple  
(**Candlemas**)

Lord of all creation and new life, we give thanks for the cycle of the seasons and in our winter we watch eagerly for signs of spring. We thank you for all who tend gardens for others to enjoy. Bless visitors to the **Snowdrop Weekend** at Hill Close Gardens, that as they appreciate the simple beauty of the flowers you will speak to their hearts about their creator.

**Sun 3**

**Fifth Sunday**  
before Lent  
(**Candlemas**  
**Eucharist 6.30pm**)

As candles are blessed for the coming year, we remember the presentation of Our Lord at the Temple and the purification of his mother Mary. Even as a tiny child the Light of the World was apparent to all who saw Him, and we pray for hearts and minds that are open and ready to receive that light every day. May we be a light to all we meet and in all we do, to spread the Light of the Christ Child through our love and actions.

**Mon 4**

We pray for people who have been abused physically, mentally, emotionally or sexually: restore them and give them peace. Continue to transform us into communities that actively protect society's most vulnerable people, particularly children. Enlighten people to put an end to acts of violence and abuse. Strengthen all in the healing professions who minister to those who suffer abuse and violence, filling them with wisdom and compassion.

**Tue 5**

We give thanks for the potential for positive activity the internet offers us... We ask you to turn the hearts of those who use it for ill... We pray that **Safer Internet Day** will inspire conversations at every level about ways to use the technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively.

**Wed 6**

As it reaches its midpoint, we pray for all involved with the **Flourish** course at Aylesford school, focusing on self-esteem. Inspire those leading it, and set free the minds of the girls to receive its message, that its effect may ripple out to bless the whole school and the staff as well as the pupils taking part.

**Thu 7**

Bless all who are preparing for confirmation this term. Draw them closer to you as they explore the faith, that they may continue to grow in wisdom and understanding in a life-long journey of faith as followers of Jesus. We also ask you to guide and inspire Vaughan and Alycia as they mentor them.

**Fri 8**

As participants in the **Helping Hands** charity sleep-out challenge wait for its secret location to be revealed, we ask you to bless their endeavours to raise money that will support those who regularly face uncertainty about where they will lay their heads.

**Sat 9**

Today we bring before you the needs of all who make their homes or living in The Holloway, Church Street, High Street, Castle Lane, Castle Street, Leicester Place, Bowling Green Street and Puckering's Lane. As we notice these roads this month, help us to see them with your eyes, and so to pray...

**Sun 10**

**Fourth Sunday  
before Lent**

Lord of every day, who called fishers and ordinary folk to be your disciples, help us to put all we are to your service, and to attend to your guidance as to where to direct our efforts. Give us faith to follow you even if we fear our contribution is not enough, that we may play our part in gathering people into your kingdom.

**Mon 11**

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit.

**Tue 12**

We pray for those who are struggling to find true contentment. Praying for those who are in unhappy relationships, where words no longer find solutions, and hearts are broken, we ask you for guidance and reconciliation. We pray for those who are facing divorce and loneliness, those in an abusive relationship from which they cannot find a way out, and those who cannot find the love of a partner. May they find solace in your endless love.

**Wed 13**

Lord of healing, we remember all whose lives are affected by prostate cancer. Give hope and comfort to those who suffer, and reassurance to their families and friends. We pray for those who have died, and their loved ones who mourn them. Guide medical teams and researchers dedicated to improving treatment and diagnosis. Bless all who raise funds for this vital work, and all who are taking part in the ongoing Rezum trials.

**Thu 14**

St Valentine

Thank you, Loving God, for the joys of relationships. Today we pray especially for couples who are celebrating their love for each other on St Valentine's Day. As cards, flowers and gifts are exchanged, remind us all that actions and commitment are more valuable than anything money can buy. We pray that we may find love in all our relationships every day, and may rejoice in the endless love you have shown us, through Jesus.

**Fri 15**

We pray for all seeking to connect with the spiritual in their lives, that in their search they will find you. Bless SPCK's **Prayers on the Move** project, especially in Birmingham, which aims to encourage people to 'give praying a go' or to try it more often.

**Sat 16**

Thank you for those who serve you and our community by **Healing On The Streets** and for the healing you have given in this way. Bless the team, and bring new volunteers forward for training as channels of your healing power through prayer.

**Sun 17**

Third Sunday  
before Lent

Lord, as we distribute the money raised by **Warwick Poppies**, we thank you for the support it received from so many. Help us to build on this by finding new opportunities to connect the people of our town and beyond to you. Keep us all outwardly focused, and give us boldness and clarity in sharing the gospel with our family, friends and the wider community.

**Mon 18**

We pray for teachers and pupils on their half-term holiday. We thank you for the successes of the term so far, and that the break will give families more time to be together and to recharge their batteries, preparing for the challenges ahead. For those who are travelling, especially those who may be planning to ski, bless their journeys, Lord. Keep them safe in all they do, and restore their energy for the coming term.

**Tue 19**

As online shopping and media streaming change the way people buy goods and entertainment, we pray for those in traditional retail whose jobs are threatened, remembering especially the uncertainty and change affecting employees of HMV and M&S.

**Wed 20**

With the Community at **St Charles Borromeo**, we pray that the light of your love may shine on the Christians living in the Holy Land. Grant them peace in their land, homes and hearts. Bless and direct the work of **Friends of the Holy Land**, that it will bring healing and relief to those most in need, remembering especially two sponsored children at the Rosary School in Bethlehem. Guide all who support the Friends' work by prayer, action and fundraising.

**Thu 21**

We pray for all who receive social care in the community, in day centres, social groups and in their own homes. We bring before you especially those who are feeling frustrated, fearful or confused as they come to terms with loss of independence. Reassure them as they adjust to their circumstances, that they may learn to accept what is, find fresh confidence, and know themselves still to be loved and unchanged in your eyes.

**Fri 22**

Thank you for the **World Association of Girl Guiding & Girl Scouting** and its work to create a better world for girls and women. As its members worldwide focus their thoughts and activities on aspects of leadership, we ask you to empower them to realise their potential as leaders who, by your grace, can work together to bring positive change to the lives of themselves, others and wider society. Bless local group leaders and the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers in their care.

**Sat 23**

O God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, we give thanks for the increasing interest in caring for the environment through more careful stewardship of resources, and for the steps of every size that people and companies are taking to preserve the precious planet in our trust. Give us the discernment and courage to do your will and grant us hope that you will transform what some may dismiss as 'too little, too late' into 'enough, in time'.

**Sun 24**

**Second Sunday  
before Lent**

*"Do to others as you would have them do to you."* (Luke 6.31)  
Generous God, guide our prayers today as we meditate on Jesus's words in today's Gospel reading. Help us – individually, as a church, a community and a nation – to set aside differences of all kinds and recognise opportunities to put this into practice.

**Mon 25**

As **Fairtrade Fortnight** begins we reflect on a living income – enough for a simple but dignified life, paying for essentials such as food, clean water, clothing, schooling and medicine (£1.98 a day in Côte D'Ivoire)... Thank you for the homes, churches, schools, businesses and towns that actively support Fairtrade. Bless the #SheDeserves campaign as it highlights West Africa's cocoa trade (av. farming income 68p). May its events raise the awareness, support and funds needed to bring about change.

**Tue 26**

We give thanks for the spiritual bread that Jesus offers to all who follow him. We remember with gratitude those who are involved in providing our daily bread, on farms, roads and in factories, and we ask you to bless all who combine fellowship with flour at Northgate Methodist's **Bread Church** on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays.

**Wed 27**

Thank you for the opportunity and resources to launch 'Strong' at Aylesford School, to help young people develop mental health resilience. Bless the team leading the course, the pupils attending, the school, and the staff involved. May they all benefit from better relationships, behaviour and results, built on a foundation of trust.

**Thu 28**

We thank you for the work of the **CMM Sisters** in Tanzania, and praise you for working through education to change the lives of many. We pray for the Sisters starting new courses in education at this time, and in particular for Sr. Debora as she embarks on an ultrasound course at the world-class Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre, which will help her in her role as midwife in Newala. We also ask you to bless all the children starting in education at the CMM nursery and primary schools.